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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you conduct emergency drills at home?

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INSIDE

Nosedive

Investors fret that the financial crisis is spinning so far out of control that even the government can't stop it.

BUSINESS...Page 23

Brazen Attack

Militants launched a brazen attack against the U.S. Embassy in the Yemeni capital, killing 16.

WORLD...Page 28

Davis Stamp

"She did it the hard way."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 31

Hotels' occupancy declines in August. **PAGE 5**

Conviction of ex-DPS range master vacated. **PAGE 6**

> *I know it's an uphill battle. But I've always believed in doing the right thing. This is the right thing for our people.*
>
> —Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

Lawsuit will be an 'uphill battle'

Fitial rep barred from DHS meeting in DC

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday acknowledged the difficulty of overturning the law that will impose federal immigration rules on the Commonwealth next year.

"I know it's an uphill battle," said Fi-

See LAWSUIT on Page 4

$80K worth of 'ice' seized

DEA: Drug bust is second largest so far in NMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A random check on a man who was driving without a seatbelt yielded the second biggest haul of illegal drugs so far in the CNMI—176.6 grams of "ice" worth $80,000.

Special agent Daniel Holcomb of the Drug Enforcement Administration told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the amount seized only proves that methamphetamine hydrochloride is still a big problem in the Commonwealth. Holcomb said that, according to the Department of Public Safety's Drug Task Force, this

See $80K on Page 4

Residents, nonresidents join CUC rally

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Hundreds of residents, dressed in black with bandages plastered on their bodies, turned out Tuesday night to protest what they called the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s band-aid approach to the island's power crisis.

Citizens and non-citizens of all ages turned out for the event, held at the Garapan Fishing Base. Many people toted

RELATED NEWS

Governor looks to OIA aid for engine repairs. **PAGE 3**

See RESIDENTS on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho's raises the chalice during the Mass of Thanksgiving in celebration of his 75th birthday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral yesterday. Inset shows His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Manila, delivering his homily during the Mass.

Camacho resigns from CK Diocese

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Bishop Camacho submitted his letter of resignation yesterday, his 75th birthday, to Pope Benedict XVI.

According to Canon law, Camacho is required to turn in his resignation on

See CAMACHO on Page 4

Hans Mickelson

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Local

NEW GALLERY
Sonia Camacho and Juanita Guerrero look at the artifacts depicting the historical journey of Catholics in the community inside the newly opened gallery at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Sablan says PSS does not owe CUC money

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Public School System Education Commissioner Rita Sablan is disputing claims the school system owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. more than $1 million in past debt.

"We're going to dispute their records," she said, adding that, according to their records, they do not owe any money.

Sablan

On Tuesday, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said PSS has a past due debt of $1.8 million. This is on top of the $1.6 million PSS paid CUC in July after Finance Secretary Eloy Inos became involved in the situation.

Sablan said PSS is reviewing the CUC bills to make sure they're correct.

"We're going to work with them to make sure the discrepancies are resolved," she added.

She said school administrators have indicated there are discrepancies between what CUC's meter readers are calculating and what school meter readers are calculating.

PSS paid an average of $400,000 each month during fiscal year 2007 and paid $4 million to CUC for the entire fiscal 2007 year, she said.

"To our records, we don't owe anything," Sablan said.

For the month of August, PSS paid CUC $173,000. Sablan said the number was lower because school was not in session.

The PSS Finance Department would not release their utility records yesterday, but a public records request was going to be submitted.

A CUC representative was compiling their PSS billing records.

When asked if PSS would be able to pay the $1.8 million, Sablan said it is not realistic for the school system to pay that amount with their current budget constraints.

"It's just like any other family or business," she said. "The payment of CUC bills is a challenge."

The PSS operating cost for fiscal year 2008, from which the CUC money would come out of, is $2 million, she added.

Also, Sablan said she disagrees with the $1.6 million that was transferred to CUC in July. Inos transferred the money after speaking with then-Education Commissioner Craig Garrison.

"There was nothing official saying we authorized the transfer of money," Sablan said. "We need to talk to Eloy Inos."

An e-mail exchange between Inos and Garrison did take place.

Muña said CUC is expecting to collect the $1.8 million from PSS and $1.6 million from the central government to help pay for the emergency Aggreko generators that were turned on last week. CUC is expected to pay Aggreko $504,000 in three weeks.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The WIC Clinic will be closed from September 29 – October 10, 2008 due to staff training, except for newborn infants who need to be certified. Therefore, we are requesting that participants with food instruments (FI) that start on October 1, 2008 bring them in to the WIC Clinic prior to its closure, as our automated system will be generating new checks that start on October 14, 2008. For those who need to pick up food instruments that start from October 1- October 10, 2008 please call the above numbers starting October 14, 2008 to schedule a pick up date and time.

All Nutrition Education (NE) appointments for October 2, 2008 will be rescheduled to October 22, 2008 and those with appointments on October 9, 2008 will be rescheduled to October 24, 2008. Please note that the appointment times will not change.

We ask for the public's patience and understanding during this time of exciting progress in the WIC Program. Not only will we be transitioning from a manual system to a fully automated database system, but we will be preparing to move into the newly built WIC Clinic in Upper Navy Hill. Maps to the new location are available at the current WIC Clinic.

To the People of Rota: Please call the above numbers to register the necessary information for pre-certification, and for us to schedule your appointment on Rota.

Please visit our website at www.cnmiwic.org to learn more about the CNMI WIC Program.

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Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary, Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
Director, CNMI WIC Program

Governor looks to OIA aid for engine repairs

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration is looking to the U.S. government to pay for a new contract for the repair of the two generators at Saipan's main power plant.

Nikolao Pula, director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, will visit the Commonwealth next week to meet with local government and business leaders "on strictly CUC matters," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced yesterday.

The rehabilitation of Engines 5 and 7 is expected to be on top of the agenda for the meetings. The generators are designed to produce 13 megawatts each, and together, they could power half the island.

"Our plan for full recovery will be contingent on the support of the Department of the Interior," Fitial said.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now accepting bids from companies interested in picking up where the former contractor, the Guam-based DCM Group, left off.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña said 11 companies have expressed interest in the project, and CUC is expecting to receive formal proposals from at least five of them. The bids will be unsealed on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008, and the rehabilitation is slated to begin three weeks later.

According to Muña's estimate, the project will cost anywhere between $2 million and $4 million. Engine 7, which DCM was working on when its contract was terminated in July, is expected to be up and running within 60 to 90 days. Engine 5 may take six to eight months to fix.

Since both engines are down now, the repair project will have no impact on the amount of power currently available to Saipan.

Pula, whose office administers several grants for the Commonwealth and other U.S. insular areas, will arrive on Saipan on Tuesday morning. He will spend his first day on island meeting with Fitial and the Strategic Economic Development Council, and then touring the main power plant, where Aggreko's temporary generators are set up.

Pula will have a separate meeting with Fitial, Muña, and some Cabinet members. He will also meet with Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas and the Tinian Legislative Delegation, and the Legislature.

'Immigration waiting for Tinian's ILS'

Nobody knows when the instrument landing system at Tinian's airport will finally be installed, according to Immigration director Melvin Grey.

Grey said his Immigration staff is still waiting for the ILS, as this will open up the Tinian airport to international traffic.

"Nobody knows for sure because they keep getting different days—maybe six months, maybe eight months, maybe 12 months. So we don't know," he said.

Once the ILS is installed, it will allow China charter flights to land on Tinian, he said.

"But again there's no date. The feds don't know because nobody knows….it's on order, but until it is on the ground when they make the delivery on the order, we don't have the date," he said.

Commonwealth Ports Authority staff engineer earlier stated the ILS will likely serve as a "useful tool" for landing on the island during storms.

CPA has reportedly offered a contract to design the system to the engineering and architectural firm Thales Inc.

Tinian government officials have long sought the construction of the ILS to boost the island's tourism industry.

Officials said having an ILS will also enable the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and future casinos to be more aggressive in securing charter flights to the island and could increase the number of tourists. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rota eyes renewed Japan charters, Korean flights

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—A recently inked deal providing chartered airline on a Tokyo-to-Rota route is likely to see a renewal for 40 additional flights while officials here are eying the prospect of a new charter deal to bring flights from Korea.

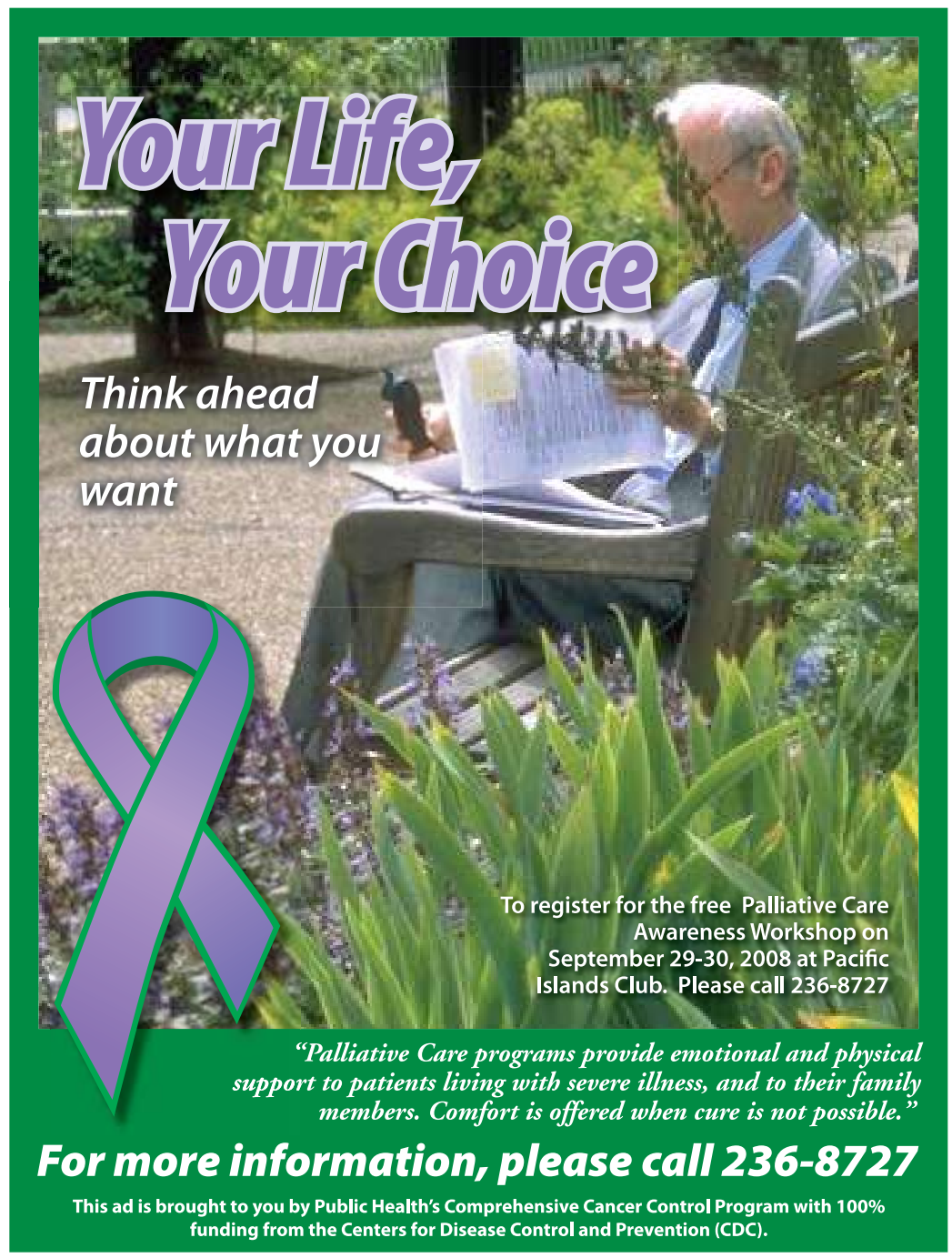
Japanese travel firm Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. and Gov. Benigno Fitial in February reached a deal to provide 40 charter flights to Rota from Tokyo's Narita Airport as a part of a one-year test on the viability of the island as a destination in the Japanese market. The flights began earlier this summer, serviced through Continental Airlines.

In an interview Wednesday, Henry S. Atalig, chief of the CNMI Department of Commerce on Rota said it appears that KNT is "excited by the program" and "leaning towards continuing it" with a second term of 40 more flights.

Meanwhile, local officials are now in talks with an airline service in a bid to start charted flights to Rota from Korea, he said. Atalig, however, stopped short of providing further details on the issue. Officials with the Commonwealth Ports Authority on Saipan could not be reached for comment on the issue at press time.

Any new Korean air charter service could prove a major economic boon to Rota. The Japanese charter service, for example, has already boosted the local tourism market by nearly 10 percent, according to Commerce's statistics and Atalig said the "ripple effect" of the tourist dollars the flights have brought to the island are bolstering many businesses here.

"The impact has really reached down to the lowest echelon of the economy here," said Atalig. "Before business was at a standstill. But the money has helped the hotels, the restaurants and the sale of agricultural products."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Samoa official nabbed in Missouri

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—Samoa Parliament Member Hans Joachim Keil is facing two counts of federal charges in Springfield, Mo. for allegedly posing as a US citizen. However, deputy Prime Minister Misa Telefoni says the case is a misunderstanding.

Keil is the associate minister of Commerce, Labor and Industry for the government of Samoa and a member of Parliament since 1988, according to a court affidavit.

"Government has strongly protested the detention of Associate Minister Hon HJ Keil in Missouri (USA) on immigration charges," said Telefoni in a statement issued by the Samoa government yesterday. "...there has been a great misunderstanding and we believe the matter will be resolved and Associate Minister H. J. Keil will be completely exonerated."

According to the criminal complaint filed Sept. 10, Keil is facing one count of falsely and willfully representing himself to be a U.S. citizen and one count of willfully and knowingly using and attempting to use a U.S. passport.

According to the U.S. government, Keil used the illicit status to travel to Branson, Mo., for the purpose of repatriating a Samoan national who was working at the Dutton Family Theater in Branson.

On Sept. 6, 2008, Keil allegedly presented a. U.S. passport at the port of entry, the Los Angeles International Airport. After his entry Keil continued his trip to Branson, Mo. During an interview on Sept. 9, in Branson, Keil told the DSS special agent that he is a U.S. citizen and presented a U.S. passport. Keil also presented a Samoan Diplomatic passport as proof of his citizenship and status in Samoa.

A detention hearing and preliminary examination was held last Friday, Sept. 12 at the federal court in Springfield, Mo., but has since been continued due to unresolved issues as well as the defense's request for a continuation of the detention hearing.

According to US federal court documents, the defendant was apprehended by ICE agents outside the Dutton Family Theater as he attempted to prevent the Samoan national from leaving the Dutton Family Theater.

Keil "served with distinction in the United States Air Force, but the charges relate back to immigration matters in 1967 which had been considered settled," said Telefoni.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi has written to Secretary of State Dr. Condoleeza Rice and the officiating judge. Samoa's Ambassador to the US, Feturi Elisaia attended Keil's hearing in Springfield, Mo., Sept. 12 and is offering every assistance, Telefoni added.

"We have also obtained the assistance and strong support of Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin," said Telefoni, who noted that Faleomavaega has also written a letter in support of Keil.

An affidavit filed by a special agent with the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) provides details of why Keil was arrested and charged.

The affidavit says on Feb. 17, 1967, Keil executed an Application for Certificate of Citizenship with the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Keil did not complete this application and no Certificate of Citizenship was issued by INS.

On Nov. 3, 1976, Keil executed a second Application for Certificate of Citizenship with the INS. When interviewed by the DSS special agent on Sept. 8, 2008, Keil said INS scheduled an interview with him in 1979 regarding this application and further stated that because he was flying for an airline in the South Pacific, he chose not to attend the interview.

Keil didn't complete the 1976 application and no Certificate of Citizenship was issued by INS.

The affidavit adds that on Mar. 19, 2008 the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) office in Kansas City reported that Keil was not a U.S. citizen.

LAWSUIT

From Page 1

tial, who is suing the U.S. government to stop the new immigration law from being implemented. But he also said, "I've always believed in doing the right thing. This is the right thing for our people."

Fitial reiterated that by ignoring the objections he had raised since the law was in the drafting stage, the U.S. Congress left him no choice but to turn to the court. Negotiation, particularly in the case of the labor provisions at the center of his lawsuit, is no longer an option, he said.

Yet he protested the decision by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to bar local businesswoman Marian Aldan-Pierce from its meeting with the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force earlier this week in Washington, D.C.

According to reports, the task force shortly before the meeting got word that the DHS did not want any CNMI representative in the meeting because the DHS had not had a chance to review the then-just-filed lawsuit.

"My own representative was excluded from the meeting. And yet, [U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna] Christensen is coming out and saying she wants the federal agencies working closely with the CNMI leaders? What kind of a statement is that?" asked Fitial.

Christensen, chairwoman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs and sponsor of the CNMI immigration measure, has said she will continue to encourage the DHS and relevant federal agencies to consult the CNMI leaders as they move toward implementing the new law. She has also said lawsuit might put at risk the working relationship with the U.S. and CNMI government.

But Fitial said, "We're not risking anything [by filing this lawsuit]. To not do anything is to risk our livelihood."

The governor said he hopes the CNMI Legislature will back him and provide the money for the suit. The U.S.-based Jenner & Block law firm is representing the CNMI government for a fee of $50,000 a month for a period of eight months. Top lawmakers have come out in public saying they oppose the lawsuit for two main reasons: they prefer to negotiate with the U.S. government, and the Commonwealth cannot afford a court battle against the deep-pocketed U.S. government.

"Whenever I hear people talk about the cost of this lawsuit, it makes me sad. They worry about $400,000. [If federalization happens] they will be worrying about their lives," said Fitial.

He also ruled out a suggestion from some lawmakers to have the CNMI Attorney General's Office represent the CNMI government in the suit. He said the AGO does not have the expertise in U.S. constitutional matters that a firm like Jenner & Block possesses.

"We're looking for the best representation. I'm not saying that our Attorney General is not capable. But we're looking for experts," the governor said. He added that his special legal counsel, Howard Willens, is working with Jenner & Block on the lawsuit.

$80K

From Page 1

is the second largest seizure of "ice" in the Commonwealth.

Sgt. Anthony Macaranas and Police Officer Daniel Punimata recovered the 176.6 grams of "ice" Thursday last week after they stopped the car being driven by garment worker Yong Ming Song, who was allegedly not wearing a seatbelt.

The U.S. Attorney's Office charged Song with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Song, an employee of Rifu Garment Factory in San Vicente, was taken to the federal court Friday morning.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson imposed no bail for the defendant and set the preliminary hearing for Sept. 22 at 9am.

Holcomb stated in his report that on Sept. 11, 2008 at 10:40pm, while Sgt. Macaranas and Officer Punimata were driving a Department of Public Safety's patrol car along Beach Road in San Jose, they saw a white Toyota Corolla driving south.

The two officers noticed that the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. As the Toyota Corolla entered the Susupe area, Macaranas activated the patrol car's emergency light and stopped the vehicle. The two officers then saw the driver trying to put on his seatbelt.

As the driver, later identified as Song, reached for the documents requested by Punimata, the defendant was observed sweating and his hands were shaking.

Punimata asked Song if he was drinking alcohol as he smelled the strong odor of alcohol on his breath.

When the defendant admitted he had consumed alcoholic beverage, Punimata instructed him to get out of the car.

Macaranas asked Song if he has anything illegal in the vehicle to explain why he was so nervous. The defendant shook his head and said, "No."

The officers looked inside the vehicle and found a large plastic bag with a gray duffel bag inside it. Song told the officers that he had just picked up the bag a few minutes ago from a friend in China.

Punimata opened the bag and found three Oil of Olay soap boxes that had been opened and then taped shut. The officer opened the boxes where he found 15 small Ziplock bags containing what appeared to be "ice."

The officers arrested Song on the spot. DPS Narcotics Unit supervisor Sgt. Alfred Celes was called to the scene. Celes then contacted DEA special agents for assistance.

Holcomb said that Song claimed he just picked up the package under the bench of a bus stop—as directed by his friend, a person named Chen based in China.

The largest amount of "ice" seized in the CNMI was 370 grams when police searched a residence of a couple on Saipan in August 2002.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

his 75th birthday and wait for a response from the Vatican.

A biography about the Bishop was also launched yesterday in conjunction with his birthday. In *From Goatherd to Shepherd of the Flock*, author Jess R.A. Sonoda tells Camacho's story from being a young boy to his tenure as the first Bishop of the CNMI. A gallery displaying artifacts depicting the history of the Church in the CNMI dating from pre-World War II to more recent years also opened at the Diocesan Curia.

In a speech yesterday, Camacho said he was nervous when Pope John Paul II divided the diocese and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and ordained him Bishop.

"At that time I felt like I had gotten married and had to start my own family," he said. "There were nights when I prayed to the Lord to make me strong to face my new responsibility. I had to learn to be more independent from Daddy. Fortunately, my family grew very fast. My family became strong and responsible to the point that I can say, with conviction, one of my sons is ready to take over the household."

Reverend Monsignori Brigido Arroyo, who has known Camacho for 60 years, said the two of them would often encourage each other.

"We pray together," he said. "We always try to build each other up. We talk shop, always how can we serve better."

Camacho has done many things to help the Diocese, including translating the Bible into Chamorro, Arroyo said.

In the afternoon, a diocesan-wide Thanksgiving Mass was held at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa, with no less than the Archbishop of Manila, His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal B. Rosales, as homilist.

Priests from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam were in attendance, together with all parochial and ministry teams, as well as various civic and public leaders.

To close out the day, a dinner fundraiser was held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall. Proceeds from the dinner tickets will go to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Camacho, the first bishop from the Northern Mariana Islands, has served his people for over 23 years as the head of the Roman Catholic Church in the CNMI.

RESIDENTS

From Page 1

signs with slogans, such as "Will fight for light," and "Customers Using Candles," in a nod to CUC's acronym.

Organizer Ed Propst said more than 400 people signed a petition that will be given to Nikolao Pula, the Director of the Office Insular Affairs, when he visits the island next week. The petition seeks federal intervention and oversight into CUC.

Boni Sagana, a resident of As Perdido representing long-term contract workers, said he wants federal oversight and a federal investigation conducted to look into CUC's billing practices.

"The power's out three or four hours a day, but the consumption is the same or higher [on the bill], so we don't really understand," he said.

Many families are struggling to pay their monthly bills, he added.

"Our salaries, some of us on minimum wage, we're supposed to be using that money for our children, but everything earned goes to power," he said.

Kagman High School teacher Dave Bucher said he is concerned with the lack of water during outages.

"I'm concerned for costs, but the issue of not having reliable and clean water is huge," he said. "This is the only place I know where you can't drink the water. Water is a fundamental quality to life."

Bucher said it did not make sense that Gov. Benigno Fitial delayed the opening of four public schools due to contaminated water.

"Well, we should shut the whole island down because it's all contaminated," he added.

During the event, organizers Propst and Rep. Tina Sablan spoke to the crowd. When Propst walked on to the stage, he asked the protesters to bow their heads.

"Can we take a moment of silence for our electrical equipment and our appliances," he said. Propst then had the audience repeat the lines, "Enough is enough," "No more lies," and "Let there be light."

Several community members walked on stage and spoke to the audience.

Everyone is complaining about the power being out, Galvin Guerrero told the audience, but he wanted to talk about the elected leaders.

"I don't want to demonize them," he said. "They think they're doing what's best for the CNMI."

But elected leaders lose humility, and when they lose humility, they lose perspective, he said.

"They call groups like this dissidents, and they call people like Tina [Sablan]…many, many things."

Guerrero said he disagrees with the idea to seek federal intervention, because he was not pleased with the way Hurricane Katrina and other disaster situations were handled, but he is in favor of a receivership for CUC.

The event ended with the audience members lighting candles and holding cell phones, as Sablan asked everyone to bow their heads and remember those who have left the island because of the power; those whose houses burned down due to using candles; those whose education is suffering; CUC employees who have "labored tirelessly;" victims of domestic crime and violence; drivers, officers, businesses and tourists; and "all of us that have fallen into debt trying to pay our bills."

"Nothing less than the future of our community is at stake," she added.

Yesterday, Propst said they are continuing to ask for signatures and testimonies of those affected. Eric Atalig Roger Ludwick and Rep. Edward T. Salas also helped organize the rally.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña said he respects the community members' right to protest.

"People have a right," he said. "No one here had any intention this is what we wanted to happen though. This is what we inherited. We've had these obstacles to overcome."

Hotels' occupancy declines in August

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Rising fuel prices and a decline in the number of Japanese tourists visiting the CNMI contributed to a 5 percentage point drop in hotel room sales for August compared to last year, yet the pending federal takeover of local immigration rules appears to have boosted the number of Russian tourists hoping to enjoy the islands before visa requirements begin.

In newly released statistics, the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands reported a drop in hotel room sales among its members for August, down from the 57,386 sold in August 2007 to 52,998.

Knight

"August has traditionally been a peak month, but this year's results were down 5 points compared to last year in large part because of rising fuel prices," said Lynn Knight, who chairs HANMI's board. "August is a time for family travelers, and this year, more Japanese families in our largest tourist market stayed home or traveled domestically in Japan because of concerns about rising costs of fuel."

Many airlines have begun adding a fuel surcharge to ticket prices due to higher fuel costs, Knight noted, a move that has limited the plans of traveling families more than solo tourists because the increase for them is multiplied. The impact of higher ticket prices on the tourism market is also reflected in figures from the Marianas Visitors Authority, which reported a 13.5 percent drop in Japanese tourism for August earlier this month.

Meanwhile, Russian tourism is on the increase due in part to aggressive marketing by local hotels and MVA. Yet a separate factor driving the relative boom in the number of Russian visitors reaching the CNMI appears to be the "federalization" of the local immigration system, a change that could result in stricter visa requirements for Russians and tourists of other nationalities.

"We have also heard that more Russian visitors are coming to the CNMI this year because they are unsure of whether we will continue to have tourist visas for Russians next year after the takeover of immigration next June 2009," Knight said. "They want to spend as much time as they can enjoying their vacations here in our islands now."

While Russian tourists constitute a small demographic in the CNMI's tourism industry, the number of them arriving each month has gone up rapidly this year. According to the MVA, 631 Russians arrived in the CNMI last month compared to the 342 that arrived in August 2007.

Despite the decline in hotel room sales, Knight said the tourism industry saw a slight spike in American visitors last month with the arrival of two military ships.

CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs the proclamation making Sept. 17 to Oct. 17 Cultural Heritage Month while executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs Angie Iginoef-Mangarero, Gonzalo Santos and other members of the Carolinian community look on at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan Wednesday afternoon.

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008

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Beach Road, Garapan, Across 13 Fishermen Monument • MarianasEye.com

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September 20, 2008 • 10:00am - 2:00pm
Carmen Safeway (Chalan Kanoa)
STAR CRUIZER
cool deals on wheels
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Samsung A870
(CDMA - Camera Phone)
Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade or Regular Buy
$75.00**,***
Nokia 1208
(GSM Dual-Band)
Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade
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** CDMA Phones with TDMA Trade includes Free $25.00 Load • Free Text Card * Regular buy includes Free $20.00 Load
*** Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards will be accepted • some conditions apply

Conviction of ex-DPS range master vacated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has vacated the conviction of former Department of Public Safety's shooting range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro.

Naraja also ordered the conviction record of Ogumoro be expunged "in the best interests of justice and the public."

"Further, it is hereby ordered that Ogumoro may not be deemed to have been convicted for any purpose in the case," said the judge in the order.

Naraja issued the order following the former range master's motion. The Attorney General's Office did not object to the motion.

In the motion, Edward Arriola Sr., lawyer for Ogumoro, asserted that the defendant has successfully and fully complied with all the orders and conditions of the court pursuant to the sentencing order issued in September 2006.

In September 2006, the former range master was convicted after he pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of ammunition.

The Attorney General's Office accused Ogumoro of beating his wife and for illegal possession of a gun and ammunitions. He was charged with assault and battery, unlawful possession of a firearm, and two counts of unlawful possession of ammunition.

Ogumoro signed a plea agreement and in September 2006 pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of ammunition. The remaining charges were dismissed.

Following the agreement, Naraja sentenced Ogumoro to one year in prison, all suspended.

Naraja placed the former range master on two years of supervised probation and ordered him to pay a $1,000 fine and $225 in court and probation fees.

Among the conditions during the probationary period was for Ogumoro to perform 150 hours of community service and attend anger management counseling.

The agreement stated that the government will ask the court to erase Ogumoro's criminal record if he will fully comply with the terms and conditions of the sentence after the end of the probationary period.

In the motion to expunge the record and vacate the conviction, Arriola noted that the agreement stated that should the defendant decide to file such motion at the end of his probation, the government will support such motion so long as he complies with the terms and conditions in the agreement.

On Feb. 10, 2006, members of the DPS' elite Tactical Response Enforcement Team, with the help of some Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives, arrested Ogumoro at DPS on allegations that he beat up his wife and for illegal possession of a firearm and ammunitions.

Police stated in court papers that Ogumoro was also allegedly possibly involved in gun smuggling and that he threatened to kill Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and blow up DPS. He had denied the allegations.

At the time of his arrest, Ogumoro was the weapons specialist for DPS. He was then assigned as official armorer of the Armory Unit and the Firearms and Criminal Records Section. He is a retiree from the U.S. Marine Corps.

MAN'AMKO CLASS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man'amko members take computer lessons from NMC program manager John Manalo, standing, during a recent class. The course, offered through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

22 youth pols are certified

The House of Representatives certified the election of 22 youth politicians to the 11th CNMI Youth Congress yesterday.

Meanwhile, two candidates are still battling it out for the third seat for Northern Marianas College. A special election will be held today to break the tie between Vicky Jean Castro and Aesha De-Brum Sablan. The election will be held at the NMC Student Center from 9am to 4pm.

The youth senators-elect from the schools are: Kimberly B. Hofschneider, Grace Christian Academy; Jessel M. Mesa, Kagman High School;

Seong Bin Lee, Marianas Baptist Academy; Leilani S. Cepeda, Marianas High School; Min Kyung (Rachel) Kim, Mount Carmel School; Sunny Frank L. Aldan, Northern Marianas Academy; Johora A. Paeda, Rota High School; Annie C. Camacho, Saipan International School; Maria Grace Madeline B. Alvarez, Saipan Southern High School; Donnie Dosalua, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School; Min Seon Park and Charlyn S. Techur, Northern Marianas College.

To represent their respective elective precincts are:

Andrew C. Benavente, Bianca K. Blanco, and Jessamin C. Santos, Election Precinct I; Adeleyah Charlotte Mojica, Election Precinct II; You Mi (Laura) Lee, Alana May DLG. Leon Guerrero, and Thomas R. Rabauliman, Election Precinct III; Maegan T. Norita, Election Precinct IV; Quina Marie P. Mendiola, Election Precinct V; and John A. Ayuyu, Election Precinct VI.

The inauguration will be on Oct. 18, 2008 at 10am at the House of Representatives' Chamber on Capital Hill.

Youth Congress members serve a term of one year. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that ladies over 20 years old should start getting Clinical Breast Exams (CBE).

Early detection is your best protection!

CNMI Breast & Cervical Screening Program (BCSP)
236-8727/37
cnmibcsp@pticom.com

This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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1000W & 3000W in store
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Solar Water Heating System
18pcs 6' solar pipe 50Gal tank
starting at $840
"Keep the environment and your budget out of hot water"

LPG Water Heater
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Get Hot Water in an instant When hot water not in use the gas is off
Money Save!!!

Counter Top $287
Single Burner $46
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Table Top $119
Infrared heating gas stove. Available for both counter top and table top (no fumes, doenst make your pot black, wind proof) Save 20% on LPG.

Generators are in!. Stop in and get yours today!

Roshi's burglar gets 1 year

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a one-year prison term on a man who was among the group that burglarized the Roshi's Department Store in Kagman and ransacked the establishment of a huge amount of clothing and other items worth $5,961.25.

Manglona sentenced Roman Torres Cabrera Jr. to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for one year, with credit for time already served in jail from March 20, 2008.

Cabrera, 41, is expected to complete the prison term no later than March 20, 2009.

After completing his sentence, the defendant will be placed on four years of probation.

Manglona ordered Cabrera to pay a $2,000 fine, $100 in court assessment fee, and $100 in annual probation service fee.

The judge said the defendant shall pay his pro-rata share of the $5,961.25 in restitution to Roshi's Department Store for the stolen items and damaged bathroom window.

She ordered the Office of Adult Probation to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report only as to the restitution amount.

Manglona said the defendant shall perform 200 hours of community service.

Cabrera was also directed to write a letter of apology to the store.

Last March, the Attorney General's Office charged Cabrera and Julian Muña Sablan with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

Cabrera entered a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to burglary. The remaining charges were dismissed.

The plea agreement stated that on Feb. 28, 2008, the defendant burglarized Roshi's Department Store.

According to the charging information, Cabrera and Muña broke into the store by damaging the bathroom window and frame. They then stole assorted merchandise.

According to a police report, the burglary was discovered when the store manager reported to work in the morning of Feb. 28.

Among the stolen items were several cartons and packs of cigarettes, a large amount of clothing, ball caps, wristwatches, and other items.

DPS later received a tip from a person as to who were responsible for the burglary.

Police learned that aside from Cabrera and Sablan, there were three others involved, including two juveniles. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WHO sounds alarm vs Pacific dengue 'pandemic'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The World Health Organization is calling for more funds to fight dengue fever, arguing it has reached pandemic proportions in the Pacific.

Thousands of people in the region are infected by dengue, which is carried by mosquitoes and can be fatal if left untreated.

Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, and many other nations are currently experiencing dengue outbreaks.

The WHO's Pacific representative, Dr Kevin Palmer, says the region needs to adopt a multi-sector approach to fight the disease.

"There's more than 1,600 [people], and those are the reported cases. So if you multiply that number by five, you get 5,000 to 6,000 people. This certainly has a major impact on the workforce, on the health system. Dengue is really the pandemic disease of the Pacific and we need to do something about it, invest the similar kind of money that was put into bird flu and put that back into dengue."

Dr Kevin Palmer says the WHO is developing a regional plan to fight the virus. The World Health Organization is calling for more funds to fight dengue fever, arguing it has reached pandemic proportions in the Pacific.

Thousands of people in the region are infected by dengue, which is carried by mosquitoes and can be fatal if left untreated.

Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, and many other nations are currently experiencing dengue outbreaks.

The WHO's Pacific representative, Dr Kevin Palmer, says the region needs to adopt a multi-sector approach to fight the disease.

"There's more than 1600 [people], and those are the reported cases. So if you multiply that number by five, you get 5- to 6000 people. This certainly has a major impact on the workforce, on the health system. Dengue is really the pandemic disease of the Pacific and we need to do something about it, invest the similar kind of money that was put into bird flu and put that back into dengue."

Newborn Hearing Screening
Did you know that …
Every baby born in the CNMI receives a hearing screening before leaving the hospital?
Ask if your baby passed the test. Babies learn to talk from what they hear… if your baby needs follow up, schedule your appointment right way.
Follow-up testing is FREE!
Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-026

RESURFACING OF GARAPAN BASKETBALL COURT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Resurfacing of Garapan Basketball Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 12, 2008 at 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasure and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtained the project package at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on October 01, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at Garapan Basketball Court Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 06, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-026". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 14, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 14, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 14, 2008, and must be received no later than October 22, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 27, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 16, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

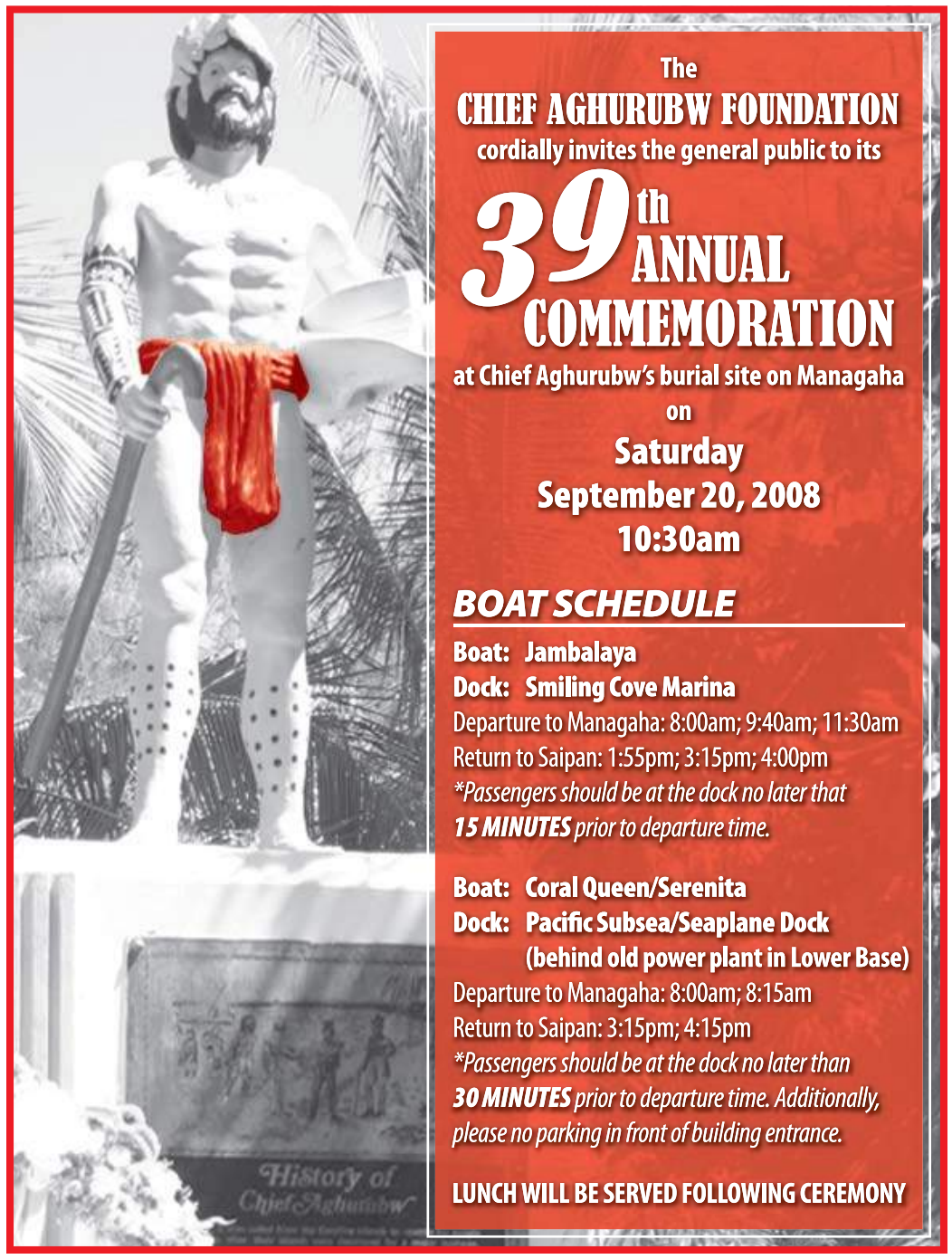
The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply


The
CHIEF AGHURUBW FOUNDATION
cordially invites the general public to its
39th ANNUAL COMMEMORATION
at Chief Aghurubw's burial site on Managaha
on
Saturday
September 20, 2008
10:30am
BOAT SCHEDULE
Boat: Jambalaya
Dock: Smiling Cove Marina
Departure to Managaha: 8:00am; 9:40am; 11:30am
Return to Saipan: 1:55pm; 3:15pm; 4:00pm
*Passengers should be at the dock no later that 15 MINUTES prior to departure time.
Boat: Coral Queen/Serenita
Dock: Pacific Subsea/Seaplane Dock
(behind old power plant in Lower Base)
Departure to Managaha: 8:00am; 8:15am
Return to Saipan: 3:15pm; 4:15pm
*Passengers should be at the dock no later than 30 MINUTES prior to departure time. Additionally, please no parking in front of building entrance.
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING CEREMONY
History of Chief Aghurubw

NMC gets $330K to enhance access, retention

The Northern Marianas College was recently awarded $330,000 to fund efforts aimed at heightening college enrollment and retention among the CNMI's public high school graduates.

The funds are part of the College Access Challenge Grant Program, a formula grant program that was created as part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush in 2007.

According to the grant proposal prepared and submitted by the college, an average of 600 students graduate from public high schools each year. However, only 25 percent of that number enroll in postsecondary institutions—lower than the national average of 63 percent. Further, the proposal indicates that close to half of those who have enrolled at the Northern Marianas College drop out or discontinue their coursework because of academic or financial challenges.

To increase the number of students—especially native Pacific Islanders with low-income backgrounds—who are prepared to enter and succeed at NMC or any other postsecondary institution, the college plans to launch a number of initiatives that expand existing student services. For instance, the grant will enable the college to hire two additional counselors to enhance the services provided by NMC's Counseling Programs and Services Office.

Direct financial aid will also made available in the form of 30 need-based grants to qualified students during the first year. The financial assistance will be complemented by academic support via tutorial services in English, math, and science to CACGP-eligible students since the grant will allow for the hiring of 10 tutors.

Other activities planned include college information sessions and college/career fairs that provide students and their families more information about the benefits of going to college, college opportunities, college financing, and career preparation. NMC will also organize and host professional development workshops and seminars for high school guidance counselors, admissions staff, and financial aid employees.

"Expanding educational opportunities for CNMI students has always been one of my priority initiatives," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "To a great extent, the grant allows us to do this by handing the college a central role in helping our high school students enroll in higher education institutions." ***(NMC)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to Wednesday October 1, 2008 at 6:00 pm, CRM Conference Room, 1st floor of the Morgen Building, San Jose. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings
1. 2008-1474 V. Benavente Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
1. 2008-0908 A. Vekhov, preliminary plat, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
2. 2008-1197 Jesus G. Villagomez final plat, lot H34NEW
3. 2008-1474 V. Benavente Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat
F. Old Business
1. Review and approve amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
   a. Map 14. Rezone RU to VC various lots
   b. Map 19. Rezone VR to VC various lots
   c. Map 23. Rezone VR to VC, Lot 6-1, File 2008-1311
   d. Map 26. Rezone VR to MC, Lots 032 K 07 & 08, File 2008-1218
   e. Map 27. Rezone VR to VC various lots
G. New Business.
1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 14 (Kagman), 19 (Chalan Kiya), 23 (Fina Sisu), 26 (As Lito), and 27 (Koblerville).

A public hearing will be held:

Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2008
Time:	6:00 pm
Place:	Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at

Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:00 pm, Wednesday, September 24, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
PUBLIC NOTICE

September 10, 2008

To: Homesteaders

The Department of Public Lands Homestead Division will be conducting their monthly site inspections on September 25 & 26, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Areas to be inspected will be As Matuis, Kagman, Dandan and Koblerville homesteads.

Thank you

Homestead Division

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 19, 2000

Japan travel advisory: Saipan 'dangerous'
A travel advisory issued by the Japanese government has listed the Northern Marianas, especially Saipan, as a dangerous destination for Japanese tourists due to growing crimes committed on the islands. In a travel advisory posted on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, it cautioned its citizens against traveling to the CNMI due to rampant crimes of robbery, murder, drug use, and smuggling.

Gov't, CUC meet to reconcile billing records
The government is disputing utility charges in some departments and agencies that are now under review by both the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Finance, according to administration officials. But they wouldn't say how much of the estimated $12.2 million that CUC has claimed they owed are being questioned, other than indicating that there would be "drastic change" in the amount once records are reconciled.

Gubernatorial hopefuls snub Chamber forum
A forum organized by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will not push through after three candidates seeking the Commonwealth's highest post either backed out or expressed disinterest in participating in the meeting. The Chamber has scheduled for Friday the forum to coincide with its general membership meeting to allow gubernatorial hopefuls present their political and economic agenda for the Northern Marianas.

September 19, 2001

Gov't warns of drastic budget cuts
Finance Secretary Lucy DLG. Nielsen yesterday warned department heads to expect "drastic cuts" in their budgetary allowance for Fiscal Year 2002, as collections are expected to drop due to the economic crisis besetting the CNMI in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the US mainland. This had Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio urging his Cabinet members to "control government expenditures" at all levels, even as the CNMI continues to reel from the effects of the terrorists attacks in New York and Washington D.C.

Higher power prices loom
Consumers hooked to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation may be forced to pay higher bills once the utility firm implements a surcharge program that may levy on them the rising cost of fuel. The CUC Board of Directors, in a public hearing yesterday, adopted the recommendation of executive director Timothy Villagomez to start the research and development of a Fuel Surcharge Program, a proposal that was first brought up when the Gulf War broke out in 1990.

Federal aid sought to keep NMI afloat
Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the CNMI government should also consider asking the federal government for help, in light of the possible collapse of the tourism industry brought on the by terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. Citing the assistance package that the US government is planning to grant to the airline industry in the US mainland, Manglona said the local administration should also consider tapping into this type of assistance to tide the economy over until the tourism industry picks up once more.

September 19, 2002

312 govt workers face termination
About 312 government employees—including 32 division directors—are set to lose their civil service employment, after the Office of Personnel Management sent out advance termination notices to the different departments in compliance with Public Law 13-1. The Civil Service Commission, however, has opposed the move and has issued its own memorandum to the department heads, urging them to first review the OPM action with the Office of the Attorney General before taking any steps that may affect the employment status of their civil service employees.

Legislature eyes own homeland security department for CNMI
The Legislature is closely following up on the national debate over President Bush's homeland security proposal amid local plans to create the CNMI's own version of the federal department, in the event that the measure sees passage. Rep. Martin B. Ada, chair of the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, yesterday disclosed that lawmakers are targeting the creation of a homeland security department, citing a great need for its presence in the Commonwealth.

JOETEN'S

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Sale starts September 19 to 24, 2008

Corona Mens s/s Tee Shirt
$7.99

Mens Skulls Tee Shirts
$7.99

Boys 2 pc. Set Assorted by 50 Cent
$9.99

Girls Attitude Print Tees
$5.99

Ladies Baby Phat JR Tees Assorted
$14.99

Summer's Eve Disposable Douche
$3.19

Nice Cotton Ball 300's
$1.39

Toothbrush 5+5
$1.00

Whiterain Shampoo or Conditioner 15oz.
$1.59

Suave Hair Spray 8.5oz.
$2.89

Fuji VHS Tape T-120 HQ
$2.99

Fuji Audio Tape 60 min/7 pack
$5.99

Handheld Casino Video Games
$8.99

TDK Dry VHS Head Cleaner
$8.99

Phone Charger or Holder
$1.59

Toastmaster 12 cup Coffeemaker
$21.00

Toastmaster Mini Food Chopper
$14.99

Pyrex 3qrt Baking Dish
$8.99

Fabric Shower Curtain
$10.99

Shaza Sheer Window Curtain
$6.99

Sterlite 4 Qrt Storage Box
$1.99

Pyrex 2 Qrt Baking Dish
$6.99

Toaster 4 Slice Oven Toaster
$36.99

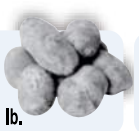
Jergens Natural Bar Soap 2 pkg
$1.59

U.S. Produce

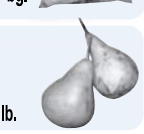
Look for the U.S. Produce at our Produce section

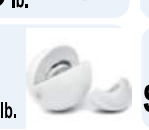
U.S. Baby Carrots $1.49 bg.

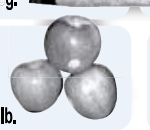
U.S. Brown Potatoes $1.09 lb.


U.S. Celo Carrots 85¢ lb.

U.S. Bosc Pears $1.69 lb.


U.S. Honey Dew 99¢ lb.


U.S. Fuji Apples $1.55 lb.


U.S. Extra Large Eggs 1 Dzn $2.75 dz.

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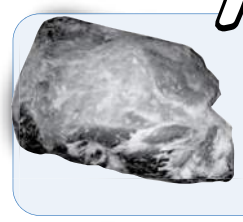
Supermarket


New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99 /lb.

New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb.
$14.99

New Zealand Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb.
$15.99 /bg.

Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$19.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$19.99 /cs.

New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$5.99 /ea.

Diamond G. Calrose Rice 50lbs.
$34.99 /bg.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
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Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
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ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Surviving Hurricane Ike

The situation on the Gulf Coast of Texas is dismal. Power is out and in some areas won't return for weeks. There's water everywhere—just not the kind those who rode out Hurricane Ike can drink. Much of the city of Galveston has been reduced to matchsticks. More than 30 deaths have been reported in nine states. And it could have been a whole lot worse.

Hurricane Ike was a monster of a storm. At 600 miles across, on radar images it looked as big as the Gulf of Mexico itself. Federal officials and authorities in states along the Gulf Coast were persistent in their pleas to residents to seek shelter inland after Ike ripped through Haiti and Cuba the previous weekend. By last Thursday, the National Weather Service had announced bluntly: "Persons not heeding evacuation orders in single-family one- or two-story homes will face certain death."

Galveston had not been hit by a storm like that since 6,000 people were killed in a 1900 hurricane. In response to that disaster, buildings were elevated by more than 10 feet. A 10-mile-long, 17-foot-tall sea wall was constructed. Ike was expected to deliver a storm surge of 25 feet; it came in at 11. "Fortunately, the worst-case scenario did not occur," Gov. Rick Perry, R, said over the weekend. But the aftermath is grim enough.

Two million people throughout the region heeded the warnings to flee Ike's path. But 20,000 Galveston residents stayed behind. Now that Ike has laid waste to the city, its mayor has told them to "please leave." Festering pools of stagnant water and the mosquitoes they attract have turned the island into a breeding ground for disease. Officials said that power and sewage systems might not be up and running for a month. It's uncertain when residents will be able to return to what's left of their homes. But when they do, there must be some tough discussions about their city's future.

Hurricane Ike and the destruction of Galveston raise the same questions that the drowning of New Orleans posed after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. When cleanup turns to rebuilding, should city and state lawmakers give serious consideration to reducing the risk to life and property by restricting what can be built where on the island? Should public resources be used to extend the sea wall? Would doing that encourage more and riskier development? These are serious questions. Ike's destructive wake shows they demand serious thought.

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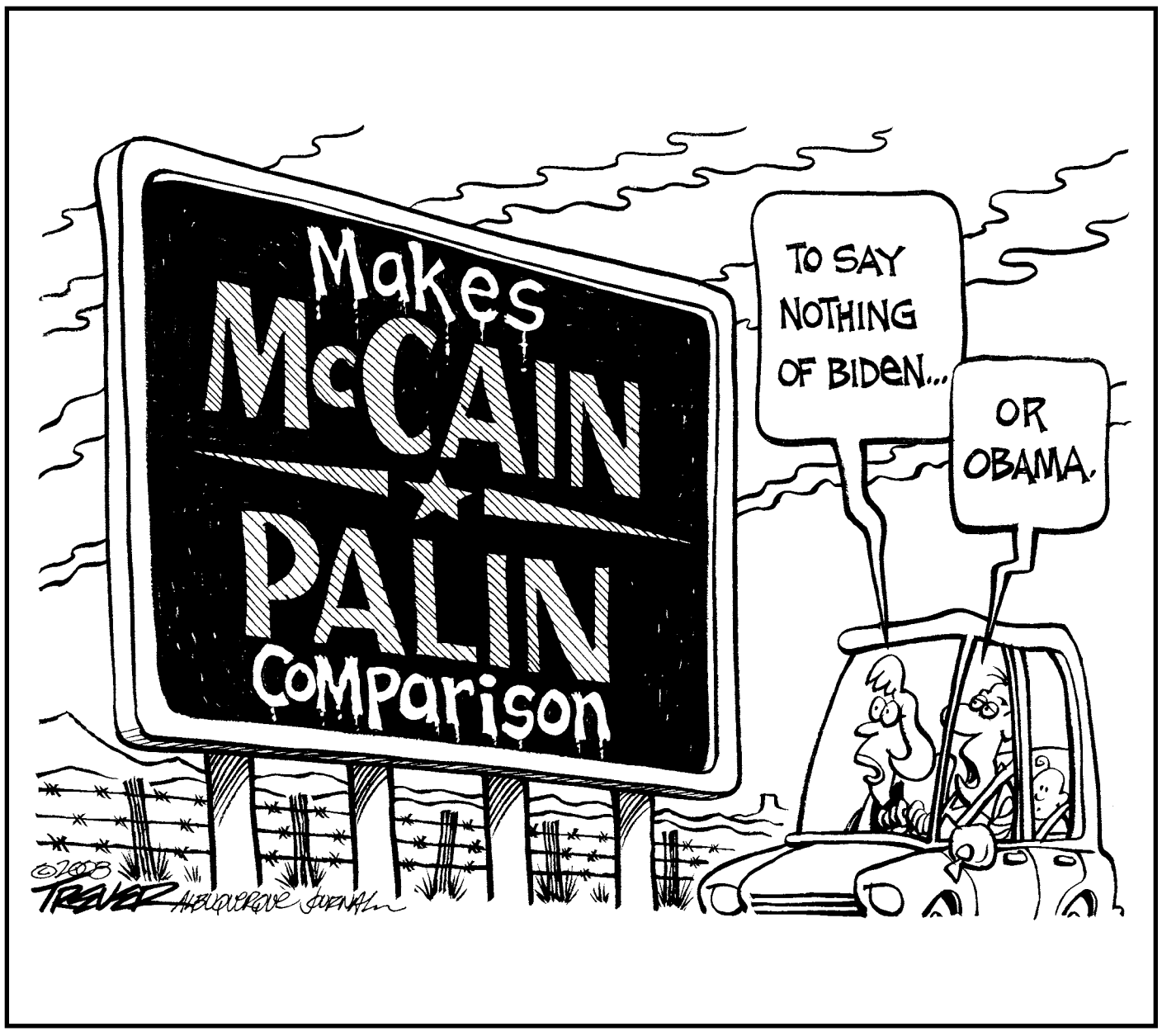

Walking down cyber streets in the Pacific

Now, more than ever, business in the Pacific is moving online

By DANIELLE NOTO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Danielle Noto was a 2008 Summer Island Fellow for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"Location, location, location" used to be the old adage that dictated storefront or business success. However, more and more, it is click traffic, rather than foot traffic that is driving success. Businesses must now appear on online networking sites where their suppliers, distributors and customers are "taking a walk." In the virtual world, a business that is not listed on a networking site becomes the equivalent of a restaurant on a dead-end street. Business as usual in the Pacific Islands is naturally evolving to utilize the benefits of online networking. A new business networking site, Island Business Link (www.islandbusinesslink.com), launched this summer and is leveraging this growth for entrepreneurs and business owners in the Pacific.

Facebook.com, a U.S.-based website online since 2004, has seen its overall percentage of world usage increase 27 percent in the past three months. Currently, www.facebook.com has over 90 million individual visits every 30 days. Actually, if you were to go down the list of most popular sites for each country on the planet you would find a social networking site is now in the Top 10 of the large majority of them.

According to www.internetworldstats.com, Internet penetration into the Pacific Islands and Oceania is growing in lockstep with social networking sites. According to internetworldstats.com from 2000 to 2008 the Marshall Islands' Internet use increased 340 percent, Micronesia's Internet use increased 700 percent, and Guam's Internet use increased 1,200 percent. In fact, the 34 million people living in the Pacific Islands and Oceania, which includes major trading partners Australia and New Zealand, now have a higher internet penetration than the total world average. According to www.comsScore.com, social networking usage in the Asia Pacific Region is up 23 percent for the year ending June 2008.

Official business to business sites are also growing. For example, www.LinkedIn.com covers businesses by industry and has over 150 different industries and 25 million different members listed. In fact, LinkedIn has actually outpaced Facebook in growth for 2008. In addition, as of April 2008, an online B2B site, www.Alibaba.com, is now the fifth most popular website in the Asia Pacific Region (defined as China, Japan, India, Korea, Taiwan, Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and New Zealand), after four search engines.

Business owners and investors have been asking for a more focused online network for the Pacific region. Last year at the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's 4th Annual Business Opportunities in the Islands Conference, 72 percent of the attendees who completed an online evaluation said an internet based business tool would help stimulate private sector growth. The Department of the Interior, which maintains relationships with U.S. Freely Associated States and Territories in the Pacific and Caribbean Regions, responded. That site, www.IslandBusinessLink.com, has been a roaring success. After only two months of being online and almost zero marketing, there are nearly one thousand business owners networking and developing opportunities thanks to the website. Large contractors, consultants, and procurement coordinators, as well as local artisans, restaurant owners and dive operators are working together toward their shared goal of a robust regional economy. Main industries in the Pacific Islands include tourism, fisheries, and development-especially in Guam where there is already $10 billion committed to the movement of U.S. troops from Japan. The Island Business Link, a regionally focused business networking site, is one of the first targeted networking sites, and it will not be the last.

The new horizon in online business networking is not bigger reach, but better reach. Better reach includes focused networking sites based on business regions and their unique economies. Facebook propelled their growth this year by accommodating different regions and producing their sites in languages other than English. It is easier to socialize online with people who speak your language, and it is easier to do business online with people whose focus is the same region as yours. While Pacific

See WALKING on Next Page

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I warned you

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

To those of you who follow financial markets, I've got four words to offer: "I told you so."

This week, the toxic debt in the U.S. financial system, and the near meltdown of markets, is the stuff of global headlines, and even talk at the corner coffee shop. Indeed, Wall Street, New York, and Shirley's coffee shop, Saipan, aren't as distant as we think. After all, many Saipan residents have online brokerage accounts, and, in the bigger picture, Uncle Sam's economic problems are going to rock the entire world's financial boat.

My outlook hasn't changed in over a decade, my friends. The U.S. economy will slide down, and, reciprocally, industrial Asia will become the world's economic center, at least if it doesn't get fatally scorched by its insanely large holdings of U.S. securities and currency.

The global press is wringing its hands, wondering how "economists" are surprised at this week's stock market weirdness. Well, I saw it coming, and I warned you.

Here is a quote from my column of June 24, 2005:

"...This is possibly the biggest financial bubble in recent history. The U.S. financial system has become tied to this irresponsibly bloated mortgage bubble, and when this sucker pops, the entire economic orbit of the world is going to start wobbling. "

■■■

See? I told you so. It was, indeed, the mortgage bubble that triggered the cascade of related debt woes.

Now, I can't promise you that the tens of billions of dollars that the U.S. is injecting into the financial system won't slosh into pushing equity prices higher. When the government starts determining capital allocation, anything can happen in the short run. Maybe the stock market will zoom up again; maybe it will melt down. The short run can, and is, and will be, at the mercy of huge distortions.

But the long run isn't so foggy, since the basic economic structure can't be ignored. And this leads from the little picture to the bigger one. We're simply up against a structure of insanely huge American debt, and insanely large government liabilities for (among other things, since military costs are very high now) the lifetime stream of government entitlements that most of middle America takes for granted now.

This isn't going to be pretty. But let me say a few more words about the U.S., and then I'll get back to Saipan's situation.

America can't do a Rosie the Riveter routine, roll up its sleeves, and "produce" its way out of this jam. For one thing, so much liquidity was injected into the markets that nothing is worth its true economic value (houses, for instance); markets are distorted to the point of incoherence. Furthermore, the manufacturing base has eroded so far that America now has more government jobs than manufacturing jobs.

Contrast that with Asia. It might have tough times coming on the coat tails of Uncle Sam's woes, but industrial Asia has the work ethic, the entrepreneurial drive, the market share, the know-how, the ambition, and the intellect necessary to succeed in the long term.

As for Saipan, well, true, Saipan blew it by basing its economy on patronage instead of Asian tourism. But that doesn't mean that Saipan's more ambitious folks can't take advantage of what remains of the private sector. Chinese, Korean, and Japanese managers can be quite helpful in providing inroads and insights into Asia's markets and economies. The contacts I made in Saipan resulted in work that has ranged from the jungles of Borneo to the board rooms of Tokyo.

Overall, then, this week's financial news wasn't really news at all. Well, not news if you've been following this column; after all, I warned you.

Letter to the Editor

Constitutional intent

To Senate President Pete P. Reyes
16th Commonwealth Legislature

Article XIV, Section 2 of the Northern Marianas Constitution addresses two important concepts with respect to "Uninhabited Islands." First, it restricts the use of Managaha Island for "cultural and recreational" purposes only. Second, it identifies four islands to be "maintained as uninhabited places and used only for preservation," namely the islands of Maug, Uracas, Asuncion, Guguan.

During the Second Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention of 1985, the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources, of which I was a member, found that the islands of Uracas and Asuncion, two of the three islands in the proposed Mariana Trench Marine National Monument, are volcanically active and are generally unsuitable for permanent habitation. The Committee found that in their "undisturbed state", these islands have acquired a "unique flora and fauna" and are "well suited for preservation or sanctuary status."

We also found that "in order to protect and preserve these unique biological characteristics, including the native wildlife and habitats, access to these islands must be controlled."

Furthermore, we found that these islands warranted protections because they had not sustained "substantial environmental damage caused by feral pigs and goats."

Finally, we found that "management or protection of fish could be addressed by an appropriate agency of the government if necessary."

The arguments I have heard in the media against the proposed Mariana Trench Marine National Monument all run counter to the intent of the writers of our beloved Constitution.

You have heard from that the current administration does not support the preservation of these northern islands. They support "sustainable use," which conflicts with the Constitutional purpose to preserve these islands.

You have heard that if a monument were declared we would have to "ask permission" to go there. Our original intent in protecting those islands was for everyone to "ask permission." That is the best way to protect and preserve their unique biological characteristics.

You have heard that there is no need to protect these islands because they are "so beautiful, so lush." That is exactly why we intended to protect those islands in the first place. These islands are undisturbed and they are unique and they can serve as a source of population of wildlife to be used for restocking other islands where certain species, such as fruit bats and coconut crabs, have been depleted. They are also the last vestige of what the Marianas were like before the Spanish arrived.

Finally, you have heard that this is nothing more than another "federal takeover." While our intent was to protect all the resources in the far north, we do not have jurisdiction or control over any of our surrounding waters. The Federal government has jurisdiction from the mean high water mark out to 200 nautical miles. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is the federal agency focused on the condition of the oceans and NOAA Sanctuaries is the appropriate government agency for preservation of our marine resources, not NOAA Fisheries.

I have attached a copy of the "Report to the Convention by the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources: Committee Recommendation No. 29" for your reference. It will help you understand our constitution better.

In closing, I urge you to support the proposed Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. It will fulfill the original intent of our constitution and benefit generations of Chamorros and Carolinians to come.

Si Yu'use Ma'ase for your time and consideration.

Karl T. Reyes
Friends of the Monument

Awakening a little giant

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

U.S. Virgin Island Congresswoman Donna Christensen's assertion of ruination of federal/CNMI relations because of the lawsuit is but hogwash. We're already in a very chaotic relationship destined to witness the destruction of what's left of the local economy beginning June of next year as a result of her ill-conceived federal dictates.

If she's hinting retaliation against us for exercising our rights as citizens via a normal process under a democratic system of government, then she ought to know best that such threat is illegal under American jurisprudence! If you will, one need not be a legal eagle or scholar to discern citizens' rights to seek redress through the judicial process. It's as American as apple pie!

I surmise that Christensen's view is purely a defense of her pride of authorship of federal dictates that came out of her committee. It further fanned ruination of an already unworkable relationship. In fact, we wish to find out through the lawsuit if the federal government hasn't gone overboard in its authority to violate basic fundamental policy of self-government under the Covenant agreement. The option we've exercised would clear the air on this matter in hopes of defining and, yes, refining federal/CNMI relationship.

Congresswoman Christensen, isn't it true that the federal government is obligated under the Covenant agreement to provide "for a progressively higher standard of living" for our people? Your ill-conceived legislation, now law, would do the exact opposite and this doesn't merit any defending at all. Not when you will be subjecting these isles to economic annihilation and a prolonged period of joblessness and below abject poverty for our people. We're not about to acquiesce failure and arrogance on your part and staff that hardly took our sentiments to full view on the two new federal dictates.

Perhaps it is best that you revisit your view of the CNMI's relationship as penned under the Covenant agreement so you and your disoriented staff can understand, once and for all, that we're not just another territory like where you or Antonio Babauta hail from. Sorry, but we're not ready to be your perpetually smiling innocent, ever so humble subjects or islanders ready and willing to submit or bow to every whims originating from the federal government.

Respect is the strength of our cultural traditions, not, and may I reiterate Ms. Christensen, not intimidation in any form or fashion. Like a little giant, we've awakened and ready to defend our rights to which we ask for nothing less.

John S. DelRosario is the Department of Public Lands Secretary.

WALKING

From Page 10

Islanders are able to use the larger networking and business sites focused on China or the U.S. to enhance their businesses, it can be rather daunting for an island business owner to find better suppliers for small businesses with them. For example, www.Zoominfo.com boasts nearly 43 million members and four million companies spread all over the world—a farming supplier for island agriculture is like a needle in a haystack. A better reach is essential and narrowing the network by region means a concentrated list of opportunities from places that are speaking the same "business language"—investments in and around the area of the Pacific Ocean.

Finally, in the Pacific Region there is a premium on the value of focused online business networking. The Pacific Ocean covers an area of 60 million square miles and has 25,000 islands. Its ability to do business has been impacted more than other business regions due to changes in oil prices. Especially now that worldwide shipping costs have increased and there is more and more focus on decreasing consumption of fossil fuels due to global warming. The fiber optic infrastructure in the region is racing to catch up with demand. American Samoa is on the verge of connecting to a line from Hawaii and there are projects in the works for other islands. This will exponentially increase the use of the Internet by Pacific Islanders.

With all of this in mind; growth in online social and business networks, the trend toward more specialized networking sites, and changes in shipping and global trade due to energy prices and efforts to protect the environment, businesses in the Pacific Region will be moving online. The Island Business Link, seeded by the list of attendees from the annual conference and various missions to the islands, fits into the intersection of all of these trends, while its organic growth highlights how the internet is changing the way business is done in the region. While it is unlikely that anything will ever replace face to face networking, there is substantial evidence that online business networking, barrier free and available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, is where the majority of the 'foot traffic' for the Pacific Region will be in coming years.

Editor's Note: Information complied for this article, if other than directly attributed to a source, was located on a variety of websites including the networking websites themselves, Alexa.com, internetworldstats.com, siteanalytics.compete.com and comScore.com.

The author was a 2008 Summer Island Fellow for the U.S. Department of the Interior. The next business opportunities conference will be held in Honolulu from April 6 to 8, 2009. More information can be found at www.islandbusinessopportunities.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

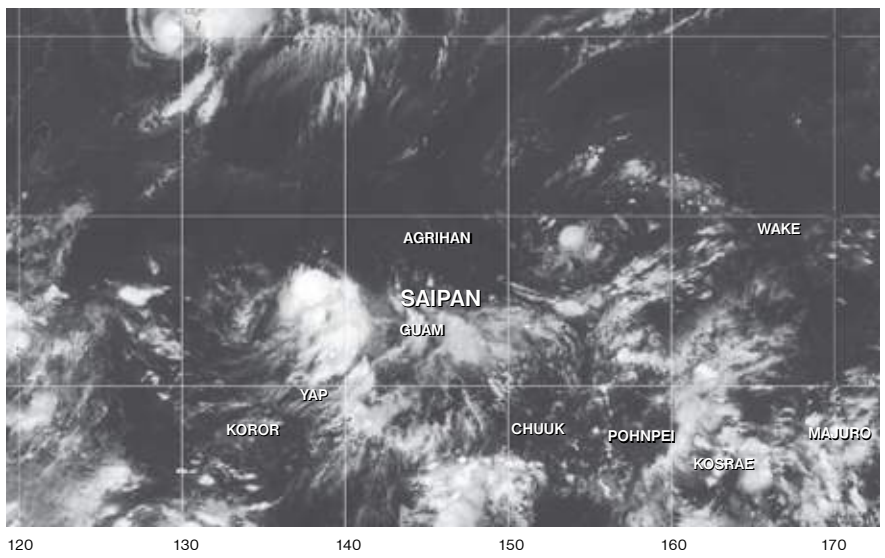
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼70
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61	▼51
Beijing	Showers	▲84	▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼61
Miami	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
New York	Sunny	▲70	▼56
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼71
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼48
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼65
Rome	Rain	▲74	▼53
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼61
Tokyo	Rain	▲80	▼70
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲71	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches from a low-level circulation located near 10N130E to a second circulation near 17N143E. Low-level convergence north of the first circulation is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 11N and 15N from 130E to 133E. Low-level convergence associated with the trough combined with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 13N and 18N from 138E to 144E and within 150 miles of a line from 9N139E to 14N153E. Low-level convergence south of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Palau within 60 miles either side of a line that stretches from 4N132E to 9N135E. An upper-level low is located near 19N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the upper low can be found between 178N and 20N from 153E to 156E. A surface trough of low pressure extends from 1N166E to 10N167E. Trade-wind convergence east of the trough is producing a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 161E to 177E. This area covers Kosrae state and portions of the Marshall Islands. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms far to the south of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 149E to 151E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:07AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:39AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:20PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:40PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:06AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:06AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:06AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:02PM	9:24AM
Saturday	9:57PM	10:27AM
Sunday	10:57PM	11:32AM
Monday		12:35PM
Tuesday	12:00AM	1:34PM

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letter to the Editor

College degree requirements?

Mr. San Nicolas:

In over two decades our local U.S. citizen applicants had been pushed to the back of the lines instead of being prioritize in job openings. After thoroughly reviewing the new JVA website we concluded that the entire system is flawed and is open to bogus renewal of job vacancies for nonresident guest workers only by employers. A vast majority of job vacancies up for renewal requires college degrees which does not make sense when the minimum wage is $4.05/hour. Why would any U.S. local citizen apply who has an accredited U.S.-certified college degree apply for a job paying the minimum wage of $3.05/hour then and now $4.05 an hour? We find this requirement highly suspicious and insulting. After carefully reviewing a majority of the JVAs online we concluded that the system is actually designed for nonresident guest workers only who will take the job regardless of the low starting pay rate. The question is how are these JVAs certified and cleared by your department? How does Department of Labor identify whether these nonresident foreign guest workers actually have college degrees that are up for renewal? And are the degrees real and not bogus? Or are the degrees certified from an accredited college or university. Reports have surfaced that such college degrees or certifications can easily be obtain through the black market in there homeland for a cheap price. How does the Labor Department determine and certify such requirement, are the employees providing employers original stamped copy of college degrees or certifications? As in any job, especially in the government sector and PSS they require a stamped, certification sealed envelope addressed to the employer from an accredited college or university.

Mr. San Nicolas, this in itself is a serious concern that needs immediate investigation. Not only was Public Law 9-71 shelved, we believe this is part of the loopholes and flaws why local U.S. citizens are not interested in applying for a job or put at the end of the line and forgotten and not prioritized.

We hope that you will seriously take our concerns into consideration, for this is part of the reasons nonresident guest workers were given preference over local U.S. citizens, meaning employers found a loophole in the system and are taking advantage of the situation. Should you have any questions please feel free to call us at 285-1734 / 256-8652.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
August 2008 Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Tinian Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Throughout **August** 2008, we collected **8** water samples in Tinian to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Of the **8** water tests, **2** samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take cther corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult Your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at I (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipelines). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concem, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present.

What happened? What was done?

Tinian: (Marpo Heights, sample location ID#02016): Water samples collected at one of Tinian sample sites indicated the presence of coliform bacteria. At the time of the collection, there was adequate chlorine level in the water system. The lines were flushed to remove stagnant water from the distribution area and samples were collected at three sites with only the original site,02016, shown to contain total coliform; the other two sites did not have total coliform. The customer at site 02016 was notified. Additional samples will be collected in September.

For more information, please contact Heidi Yelin, CUC Laboratory Manager, at 322-5140 or via email at: cuclabman@yahoo.com, or contact Ed Quichocho, CUC Tinian Deputy Director, at 433-9261 or via email at: equichocho@cucgov.net

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for exomple, people in qpartments, nursing homes, schools, qnd businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC).
State Water System ID #: Tinian MP 0000002 Date Distributed: September 19, 2008

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2000 CELICA 2DR
Manual, Blue, Stock: U08-043P
License: ABZ838
Mileage: 72097
PRICE
$7,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,999	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	7,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	7,099
TOYOTA MINI VAN								
R08-016F	2004	SIENNA CE	AUTO	60234	BEIGE	ABZ-410	10,999	
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com

TOYOTA ACDelco

Letters to the Editor

Handy-dandy pocket guide to overthrowing your government

I've been reading with much interest all the articles, letters and blogs that have appeared in the daily papers recently regarding "impeachment," "recall," and the latest entry: "overthrow." It was only yesterday, in an article about the CUC "protest rally" that at least one reader went so far as to say that the "Bill of Rights says something like our people have the right to form a militia and overthrow their government when they feel their lives are in jeopardy." Well, that got me thinking about this whole mess, so here is what I found out.

First of all, it now seems as if the NMI has been divided into two distinct groups. Group "A" appears to be composed of about a half dozen people and includes the governor, his spin-doctor mouthpiece, his (free) legal adviser, "Chucky" (whoever that is) and, of late, one Mr. Andersen. This group apparently believes that all is now under control and if the rest of us would just leave them alone, everything would soon return to "normal." They appear to actually believe that the band-aid (Aggreko) that temporarily covers the festering wound that now threatens the very existence of the NMI will allow enough time to somehow miraculously cure all ills. They accuse group "B" of unnecessary thrill-seeking tactics and disruption and also believe that the situation is "only a minor inconvenience" and we should all "grin and bear it" because the cure is at hand. But I have yet to see any soothing ointment or fester-killing solutions being applied directly to the wound.

In fact, just after those incantations appeared, Mr. Muña publicly declared that he "hoped" the central government and PSS would pay their past due bills now so that he could pay Aggreko at the end of this month. He even went so far as to opine: "Hopefully, no one up at the Legislature thinks I can pay Aggreko without their money." Uhhhh… what if they don't pay?

There is also, apparently, a "sub-group" here consisting of most NMI government employees and many legislators who appear to be keeping a tight lid on the collective mouth; whether this is due to an innate inability to form an opinion, internal pressure, or simply a materialistic desire for job self-preservation won't easily manifest until closer to election time. These people are, at least temporarily, a sub-group of group "A"—but I suspect that this sub-group may, in its time, splinter or move wholesale to Group "B."

Then there is group "B," composed primarily of the entire rest of the NMI population which includes indigenous, mainlanders, and alien workers who, like it or not, are coming together in a near homogeneous mass with the single thought that "there-must-be-something-wrong-with-this-picture." Suddenly, everyone is beginning to realize that we all actually do bleed the same way—except for group "A," of course, who apparently doesn't see the bleeding.

Thus, the purpose of "rallies," "protests," and other sorts of demonstration of people's growing frustrations with the government. After all, it really is the "right" and, as indicated below, the "duty" of citizens to peacefully show their dissatisfaction. For all who are interested, here is a bit of background taken directly from "Wikipedia" (much of the writing below is credited to Wikipedia and its authors, inclusive):

Some philosophers argue that it is not only the right of a people to overthrow an oppressive government, it is also their *duty* to do so. Howard Evans Kiefer opines, "It seems to me that the *duty* to rebel is much more understandable than that *right* to rebel, because the right to rebellion ruins the order of power, whereas the duty to rebel goes beyond and breaks it."

Morton White writes of the American revolutionaries, "The notion that they had a *duty* to rebel is extremely important to stress, for it shows that they thought they were complying with the *commands* of natural law and of nature's God when they threw off absolute despotism." The United States Declaration of Independence states that "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their *duty*, to throw off such Government" (emphasis added). Martin Luther King likewise held that it is the duty of the people to resist unjust laws.

Later, the concept was also taken up by John Locke in *Two Treatises of Government* as part of his social contract theory. Locke declared that under natural law, all people have the right to life, liberty, and estate; under the social contract, the people could instigate a revolution against the government when it acts against the interests of citizens, to replace the government with one that serves the interests of citizens. In some cases, Locke deemed revolution an obligation. The right of revolution thus essentially acted as a safeguard against tyranny.

Now, regarding the "Bill of Rights" referred to by our blogger of yesterday: The Bill of Rights constitutes the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution (there were actually 12, but articles 1 and 2 were not included at the time—Article 1 never has been, and Article 2 came as amendment 27, but much later). Nowhere in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, or any of its amendments is there any mention or reference to the people's right (or even "duty") to overthrow their government. In fact, such statements were deliberately left out because our founding fathers recognized the widely held tenet that such language would destroy the ability to have an orderly government

See HANDY-DANDY on Next Page

Together let's make monument a reality

The House of Representatives passed another resolution opposing talking with the federal government about the proposed marine monument. They did this without holding a single public hearing about this important issue. They did this despite the fact that everyday, more people are voicing their support for the marine monument.

Our good Senator Felix Mendiola of Rota wrote a letter to President Bush asking him to send an assessment team to the CNMI regarding the proposed marine monument and now we are preempting the discussion with the passage of a second House resolution. Why are we inviting the feds and then passing a resolution with a dialogue?

This proposed monument has the potential to greatly help our island. The proposal could bring over $10 million dollars in federal and tourist spending to our island economy—every year. The proposal has already generated positive press for our islands throughout the world. Seizing this opportunity would only create more positive exposure for our islands.

It is time to work together, the assessment team will be here this week so let's encourage our elected leaders, and the federal government to discuss the possibilities of preserving and protecting our waters. Let us discover what this opportunity holds for the people of the CNMI, and together let us make it a reality.

Andrew Sablan Salas
Chalan Kanoa

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HANDY-DANDY

From Page 14

and serve only as a destabilization tool.

Although many declarations of independence seek legitimacy by appealing to the right of revolution, far fewer constitutions mention this right or guarantee this right to citizens because of the destabilizing effect such a guarantee would likely produce. The NMI Constitution is no exception, but there are some that are:

New Hampshire's Constitution guarantees its citizens the right to rebellion, in Article 10 of the New Hampshire constitution's Bill of Rights:

"Whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind."

Kentucky's Constitution also guarantees a right of revolution in Section 1 of its Bill of Rights.

"All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety, happiness and the protection of property. For the advancement of these ends, they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may deem proper."

Article I, §2 of the Tennessee Constitution states:

"That government being instituted for the common benefit, the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind."

North Carolina's Constitution of Nov. 21, 1789, also contains in its Declaration of Rights:

"3d. That Government ought to be instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people; and that the doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive to the good and happiness of mankind."

So much for the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, as well as the NMI Constitution. What we are left with is the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and since the NMI has elected freely to become a part of the United States of America, we must also believe that this document applies equally to the *philosophy* behind the people's belief in good government within the NMI as well. The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence is as follows:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, ***deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it****, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.* ***But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government****, and to provide new Guards for their future security." (Emphasis added)*

The 13 original oppressed colonies sought to remove their oppressing government (the British Crown) through such declaration which might rightly be compared to a sort of "impeachment" in reverse—that is, since the colonies could not remove the British Crown itself, they could remove *themselves* from its rule and abolish such rule from the colonies.

What a mess! There is no local "Declaration of Independence" in the NMI and constitutions do not give such rights; however, I believe it is abundantly clear that the *people* have not just a right, but a well held *duty* to "throw off" a government that has demonstrated a "long train of abuses and usurpations" and become "destructive of the ends" to the *right* of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Whether or not the current NMI government fits into these parameters is a matter for the people under its rule to decide—and indecision means acceptance. As stated above, "The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive." This whole notion is why we have what are called "elections" and why, now, it is more important than ever to seek redress, force responses from those in power, and then vote—or rebel—accordingly.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV-095

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The proposal package will be available on or after **September 12, 2008** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 PM, September 22, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number: (670)664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **" RFP08-GOV-095 Construction Management/Contract Compliance."** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. For proposers within the CNMI, sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 pm, September 26, 2008 (CNMI local time)**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **3:00 pm, September 26, 2008 (CNMI local time)** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mail procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside of the CNMI, the proposal must be postmarked by the USPO (or FedEx, DHL, etc.), or Official Post Office of a foreign country no later than **September 26, 2008**, and received no later than **October 7, 2008 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Rota community to mark day of beach cleanup

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Rota—Local residents here will take part in a major beach cleanup today, joining volunteers across the world in an international effort to beautify and protect Earth's coastal and marine resources.

More than 230 volunteers on Rota, including students, government agency officials, hotel staff and even local lawmakers will be out on the island's beaches today removing trash. The cleanup comes as part of an annual cleanup effort organized through the Ocean Conservancy, an environmental group.

In an interview Thursday, William Pendergrass of the Coastal Resources Management Office branch on Rota said the cleanup is import to keeping the island's beaches in pristine condition.

"Here on Rota, historically people party on the beach and sometimes forget to take their trash home, so it gets strewn all over the place," he said. "So activities like this cleanup are great for preventing that from getting worse."

The CNMI's marine ecosystems, he added, are particularly sensitive to the damage caused by litter and the cleanup today will help to educate students and the public on its impact.

"If you throw a plastic bag out onto the land, it finds its way to the beach," he said, noting that garbage can often suffocate or otherwise harm aquatic life.

Volunteers, he added, will also be out on beaches elsewhere in the CNMI, including Saipan. The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup last year included 378,000 volunteers worldwide from 76 countries and 45 states. The effort cleared six million pounds of trash from oceans and waterways.

The cleanup on Rota will begin at 8 m beside the local roundhouse and last until noon.

No private vet on island

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The island is left without a private-sector veterinarian for the next three weeks after the temporary vet at Paradise Island Animal Hospital left the island unexpectedly Tuesday.

Kansas-resident John Thomas had been on Saipan covering Ed Tudor's practice while he was off island.

On Tuesday, Thomas said he got caught in the middle of local politics after he followed orders not to treat an animal.

"I'm not staying around to listen to this [expletive]," he said, adding that he was returning to Kansas.

Thomas, who had a six-month license to practice in the CNMI, was scheduled to stay through the beginning of October. Tudor could not be reached for comment in Florida.

Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, said he reminded Thomas that as a licensed vet he is morally obligated to treat all animals and cannot discriminate.

Dela Cruz said he is concerned there is currently no private vet on island.

"But it's not up to me," he said. "It's a private clinic. It's not related to me."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE TO VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds.

NMHC wishes to inform all vendors and contractors performing work or providing goods or services paid from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) or Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds that NMHC will mail out all payments by Certified Mail through the U.S. Post Office. Payments to vendors and contractors paid under these programs can no longer be picked up at the NMHC Payment Window.

Please direct your inquiries to Roger A. Dris, Chief Accountant, at 670.234-9447/7689 or by email to radris@nmhc.gov.mp

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSEPH B. SONGSONG and MARIA M. SONGSONG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 2, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 2, 1982, under Document No. 14220 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Sadog Tasi and hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on July 1, 2005. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $32,530.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $32,530.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

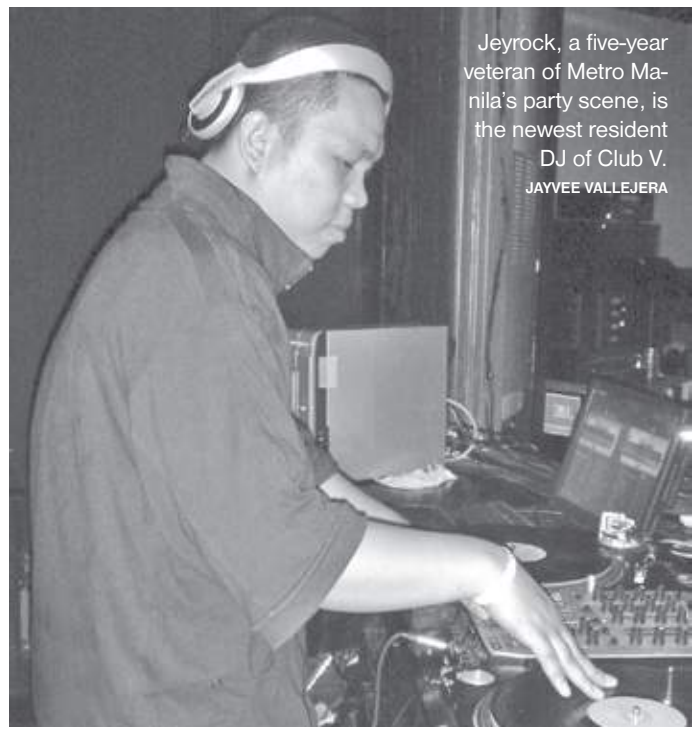
The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****



Jeyrock, a five-year veteran of Metro Manila's party scene, is the newest resident DJ of Club V.
JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Jeyrock is Club V's newest resident DJ

Club V, the most happening place on Saipan, has acquired a new resident DJ.

Jeyrock, a five-year veteran of Metro Manila's party scene, brings with him the knowledge and experience he has accumulated as in-house DJ for such diverse dance clubs as Barraks Bar, New Episode and Arcadia.

As Club V's resident DJ, Jeyrock will be offering dance and music lovers his dynamic stylings on the turntable, particularly his specialties in R&B, hip-hop, reggae, and dance hall music.

So what is dance hall music? "It's mostly Jamaican music, a bit of reggae." And the difference between R&B and hip-hop? "Well, R&B is smoother, while hip-hop has that ghetto attitude, kinda rough and in-your-face."

When asked what he can offer Saipan's party circuit denizens, Jeyrock said he is always updated on what's new and hot in the world of music and he plans to make sure that Club V will always be playing the latest dance hits. At the same time, he will be playing backup to the live band, 7th Side.

Oscar Yema, SaipanGrand Hotel's events manager, said they decided to bring in a new DJ as part of efforts to continue re-invennvcvnb n v vccsting Club V and to continue to offer something new to the club's patrons.

"Having a live band and an in-house DJ, they [customers] will enjoy themselves the moment they step into Club V. Whether it's the band or the music mix, you will immediately feel that high-energy party atmosphere," said Yema.

Jeyrock certainly knows what it takes to make a party place rock. Considered the youngest professional DJ in Manila, Jeyrock began his career at 18 while still studying at the Far Eastern University in Manila. Largely self-taught, he easily picked up on what his mentors where doing, peppering them with questions on how to mix music. And his idol? Celebrity DJ Kimosave, who is one of the most celebrated DJs in the country.

"I can sense the pulse of a dance floor so I know if people are enjoying themselves. Of course, if the dance floor is empty, that means that you're not doing your best. As in-house DJ, I can promise the people of Saipan a great time when they come to Club V," he said.

Club V is open on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday every week. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB08-014

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: October 8, 2008 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FOR NMHC'S PROPERTIES (LISTING A THROUGH D) IN SAIPAN"

Copies of the Project Package may be picked up at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, beginning Monday, September 8, 2008, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, PL 15-95 as amended by PL15-118, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A pre-bid conference will be held and specifics regarding the scheduled conference are provided in the Project Package.

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

/s/ **MERCED (MARCIE) M. TOMOKANE**
Vice Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ERMIAS M. IGUEL and DIONICIA O. IGUEL (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 30, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 31, 1984, under File No. 84-1365 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Chalan Kanoa and hereafter described:

Lot number 014 H 11, and containing an area of 360 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 014 H 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 705, on the 1st day of March, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on May 18, 2006. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $24,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $24,130.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

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Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Bacteria found in Saipan drinking water

E. coli bacteria were found in Saipan water delivered to the area from Palu Ln., Kahida Pl., Kalahi Ln., Navito Dr., Abaniku Ln., Kommat Wy., and Lamasa Pl., on Sept. 18, 2008. Routine and repeat samples collected on Sept. 17 confirmed the presence of these bacteria. These bacteria can make you sick, and are of particular concerned for people with weakened immune system.

What should I do?

Do not drink the water without boiling it first. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottle water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. You may also add household bleach to your water. After adding the bleach, allow it to mix or sit with the water for 30 minutes before using the water. Use this chart that allows you how much bleach to add to the water.

Emergency Disinfection Using Chlorine Bleach

Amount of water	For clear water use this much chlorine	For cloudy water use this much chlorine
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops
5 gallon	1/2 teaspoon	1 teaspoon

Fecal coliform and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some elderly, and people with severely compromised immune system.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened?

Bacteria contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process. On Sept. 17, 2008 around 9am, inadequate chlorine levels were detected in a routine sample and the chlorine dosage at the well was "0". Repeat samples were collected at this time. The chlorine booster pump at SV-1 chlorine station malfunctioned, which caused the dosage to drop to "0" lbs. per day. This was not discovered until Thursday morning at around 10:20am of Sept. 18, 2008.

What is being done?

Thursday afternoon, Sept. 18, the pump and motor crew replaced the motor of the chlorine booster pump and reactivated the well. Chlorinators flushed the lines and chlorine treatment increased for the disinfection process. Additional repeat samples will be collected the afternoon of Sept. 18 for microbiological analysis and these results will be available around noon today, Sept. 19, 2008.

The public will be informed when they no longer need to boil their water.

For more information, contact the CUC Water Quality Laboratory at 322-5140 or the CNMI Division of Environment Quality at 664-8500. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791. ***(CUC)***

EMO to host Multi-Cultural Day Sunday

The CNMI Emergency Management Office, under the Office of the Governor, will be sponsoring "Multi-Cultural Day" on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008, from 2pm to 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center as part of the activities of Disaster Preparedness Month.

"The Multi-Cultural Day is just one of the many activities the Disaster Preparedness Month Committee had planned for this year's monthlong event. The public is invited and the doors will be open to everyone," said acting EMO director Theodore J. Untalan. "We hope the Saipan community, everyone from all cultural backgrounds will come out to show their support and witness this event which would include free presentations and informational displays on disaster preparedness."

The CNMI Emergency Management Office will be working with various agencies to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote community involvement.

For more information contact, Untalan at 322-8001/2/3. ***(EMO)***

Bank of Guam declares Q3 dividends

The Bank of Guam's board of directors, at their regular meeting held Aug. 25, 2008, authorized the payment of common stock dividends for the third quarter ending Sept. 30, 2008 at $0.125 (12 1/2 cents) per share.

"We are pleased with the improvements in our economy. It has allowed us to pay dividends this quarter to our stockholders and represents a favorable return to their investment," said bank president and board chair Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero.

Bank of Guam third quarter dividends will be paid on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008, to stockholders of record as of Sept. 30, 2008.

For more information, contact William D. Leon Guerrero, executive vice-president and chief operating officer, at (671) 472-5273. ***(BoG)***

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ADB sees strong economic growth in Pacific

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—The economies of the Pacific region are expected to grow an overall 4.8 percent this year due to the relatively strong economic performances of resource-rich Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, the Asian Development Bank says in a major new report.

The Asian Development Outlook 2008 Update, released yesterday says the new projected growth rate—up from 4.4 percent forecast in April—is the highest in the region since the mid-1990s, but warns that high food and oil prices threaten the pace of future expansion.

Recently, Treasurer Patrick Pruaitch put PNG's economic growth at around 7.6 percent.

"High commodity prices are hurting vulnerable people in the Pacific, particularly those living in urban squatter settlements or remote, rural areas," says Indu Bhushan, officer-in-charge of ADB's Pacific department.

Already in PNG, high fuel and food prices have caused hardship, leading to a protest by students at the University of Technology, who have demanded that government start buying and distributing food to workers with its surplus funds.

The Government was given 21 days to respond to this demand.

The ADO update—which follows the initial outlook for the year released in April—says the higher overall growth projection offsets a downgrade in the outlook for six of ADB's 14 Pacific developing member countries, due to a loss in spending power stemming from higher oil and food prices.

Despite the upward growth revision overall, the report says renewed efforts are needed by Pacific countries to adjust to higher prices, including reducing their reliance on oil and raising local food production.

Such measures will lessen the adverse impact of high prices and help sustain growth.

A new ADB technical assistance grant of US$225,000 will help some Pacific countries take action to respond to high fuel and food prices. Measures will include identifying short to medium-term policies needed to address price increases, including strengthening social safety nets, and promoting energy conservation.

In 2007, the Government allocated PGK100 million [US$40 million] for agriculture, but to date the department of agriculture and livestock has not spelt out a clear guideline on increasing local food production as a substitute to import, given the high food prices.

A confidential report released by sources within DAL suggests some of the PGK100 million has already been spent on areas outside the parameters of the use of these funds.

CONGRATULATIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Renato Battallones Jr. for your recent graduation from the Naval Academy in Great Lakes, Illinois. "We love you and support you in your career with the U.S. Navy." Greetings come from your family.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE
NMC No.: IFB 08-004
PURCHASE OF THREE (3) NEW AUTOMOBILES

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Services Department (CREES) is extending the deadline for competitive sealed bid proposals for the procurement of ~~three (3)~~ one (1) of the three (3) new automobiles required. The vehicle is to be delivered on or before September 30th, 2008. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. **Any bid received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected.** Bids rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

EXTENDED Due Date/Time: Thursday, September 25th, 2008 10:00 a.m.
PUBLIC BID OPENING: Thursday, September 25th, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due Thursday, September 25th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L 2nd, Floor. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **"Local Business Preference"** is **not available to local bidders** in this procurement. This procurement is funded, wholly, from federal sources. For bidders located **outside of the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu)

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/s/Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/s/Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Package II Phase I Project, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-50/53.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., September 19, 2008.**

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:

Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA Date: August 19, 2008
Acting Executive Director

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office

INVITATION FOR BID
NMC No.: IFB 08-005
NMC Rota Instruction Site – Janitorial and Security Services

The Northern Marianas College Rota Instructional Site is soliciting for sealed competitive bids for Janitorial, and Security Services. A Bidder does not have to bid for both services. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. **Any bid received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected.** Bids rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: Friday, Tuesday, September 23rd, 2008 4:00 p.m.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan or the NMC Tinian Instructional Site Administrative Offices. Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due September 23rd, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan or the NMC Rota Instructional Site Administrative Office. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations, and in accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **"Local Business Preference"** is **available to local bidders** in this procurement. Bidders must also comply with Public Law 15-108 "The Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007". For bidders located **outside the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/s/ Dwayne Maratita
Acting, Program Coordinator
Rota Instructional Site

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office

INVITATION FOR BID
NMC No.: IFB 08-007
Single Audit Services for Fiscal-Year 2008

The Northern Marianas is soliciting for sealed competitive bids for auditing services (Single Audit) for fiscal year September 30, 2008. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. **Any bid/proposal received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected.** Bids/proposals rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: Friday, October 3rd, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan or the NMC Tinian Instructional Site Administrative Offices. Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due October 3rd, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan or the NMC Rota Instructional Site Administrative Office. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations, and in accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118; **"Local Business Preference"** is **available to local bidders** in this procurement. Bidders must also comply with Public Law 15-108 "The Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007". For bidders located **outside the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by:

/s/ **Duane R.T. Sablan**
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/s/ **Dr. Carmen F. Fernandez**
President, Northern Marianas College

DES sets 4th Parent Summit and Open House tomorrow

Dandan Elementary School, the home of the Tottot, would like to invite everyone again to their 4th Annual Parent Summit-Open House scheduled for tomorrow, Sept. 20, from at 8am to 1pm.

"We are kindly asking that you sacrifice your valuable time to participate in this important summit/orientation. This is one way of learning more about the teachers' and school's expectations and also to provide some additional information that will give you a better understanding of what DES has to offer for its students and where we are at today as a school," said DES principal Jonas Barcinas.

He said it is the school's responsibility to share the many successes and challenges the DES community is facing in order to get the much-needed support to make the learning institution a better place for its students.

"Our target is always 'students first.' That is why we are here to make sure that our children are provided with the best learning tool and skills to help them succeed academically, socially, physically, and spiritually," said Barcinas.

He is requesting parents and guardians to come and join the summit-open house tomorrow at the DES campus.

"This is an effort to launch open relationship and sharing who we are with our parents and community. You will also be given the opportunity to meet personally with your children's teachers and have a healthy discussion in regards to their daily learning. Again, thank you and we look forward to seeing you Saturday," said Barcinas. ***(PR)***

Vendors wanted for Tetset Konfirensian Chamorro

Application forms are now available for food and drink vendors who would like to sell strictly Chamorro food and other delicacies, including drinks, during the Tetset Konfirensian Chamorro on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27, at the Susupe Basketball Court in Susupe.

The Tetset Konfirensian Chamorro will be held at the Saipan World Resort, and Chamorro food concessions and handmade Lanchun Antigo huts will be at the Susupe Basketball Court area. There will be three main prizes and three honorable mentioned prizes to be awarded for the Lanchon Antigo and exhibit displays that depict the Chamorro culture and tradition. Competitions are open to all the schools and the public.

Fees are available to all sellers for profit. Schools and nonprofit organizations are free. Vendors and sellers are ask to submit the kind of electrical items to be used upon submission of application.

For more information, call Ton Benavente at 234-6208, Noel Quitugua at 288-4209, or Cindy Reyes at 664-5321. Deadline for all applications will be on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAFEA lunch meeting tomorrow

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects will have a lunch meeting tomorrow, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, 11am – 1pm, at Miggy's Restaurant in Garapan, Saipan

All officers, board of directors and advisers are requested to attend the scheduled meeting. For more information, contact Bong de Guzman at 233- 5938 or Lito Marquez at 286-6337. ***(PR)***

Calling on CNMI Delegate candidates

The Kagman community will be having a public forum tomorrow, Saturday, Sept. 20, from 6pm to 9pm at the Kagman Community Center for all the candidates for CNMI delegate. It will be hosted by the Kagman Komunidat Association. Candidates will get the chance to present themselves and where they stand. The public is invited to attend. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 08-032

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of **Bottled Water and Delivery Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-032" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-032, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-001

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop Computer Systems and Accessories for Koblerville Elementary School (KoES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 08, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP 09-001

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing **Mental Health Consultation Services for the Public School System's Head Start Program**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-037

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Marianas High School (MHS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-037" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 02, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-037" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT MAPROPOPONE NA ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Saipan, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot imapropopone na plano nuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

i. I tineteka na tano publiko madeskribe komo 003 A 11 (49,450 metro kuatdrao), 003 A 20 (49,503 metro kuatdrao), yan 003 A 19 (10,000 metro kuatdrao) maso sino menos nigaige giya Magpi, Saipan. Kopian lugat este siha nasitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu I publiku.

ii. I para u inatkilai Flame Sako Resort yan Spa un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha isigiente: Kang Dae Sik, Joon Sung Jung yan Woon Hwa Chung.

I Presidenten I kompania si Kang Dae Sik; Chun Sik Min, Segundo Presidente.

iii. I para u atkila ilugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel yan otro siha na fasilidat.

I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.

iv. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.

v. I Depattamenton Tano ta ya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Magpi, Saipan.

vi. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Oktubre 3, 2008 todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyoor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwughuw limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 003 A 19, faigh me tiwoow sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghuus, me Lot No. 003 A 20,, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máschepi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Flame Sako Corporation. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Dae Sik Kang me Chun Sik Min.

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Dae Sik Kange. Vice President nge Chun Sik Min.

iii. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

iv. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

v. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máschepi, Seipél.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Ottuubre (October) 3, 2008 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot Nos. 003 A 11, 003 A 19, 003 A 20 containing areas of approximately 49,500 square meters, 10,000 square meters, and 49,503 square meters (respectively), more or less, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Flame Sako Corporation, a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Dae Sik Kang, Joon Sung Jung, and Woon Hwa Chung.

The President corporation is Dae Sik Kang. The Vice President is Chun Sik Min.

iii. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a resort hotel and spa and related facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

iv. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

v. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Marpi, Saipan.

vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3 , 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Japanese master calligrapher opens first atelier on Saipan

By MARCONI CALINDAS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

"Shodo Shihan" Mitchi Matsuyama teaches Arthur Sondheim the art of Japanese calligraphy called Shodo inside his Japanese Calligraphic Atelier Izumo Works on the second floor of the ABC Store at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

"Shodo Shihan" Mitchi Matsuyama is introducing the art of Japanese calligraphy—called Shodo—to the CNMI with a new studio he calls the Japanese Calligraphic Atelier Izumo Works.

The calligraphy studio is located on the second floor of the ABC Store at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Matsuyama expressed honor at being given the chance to offer the art of calligraphy to the CNMI community, saying the main reason for opening the atelier here is to enhance the relationship between Saipan and Japan.

Matsuyama said his new atelier is open to all individuals who want to enrich themselves by learning the art of calligraphy.

"This place has been deeply connected with the Japanese culture," he said, adding that most of the CNMI *man'amko* could speak Japanese very fluently. "One day it came to me, maybe some [people on Saipan] would like to try the Shodo."

Matsuyama said Shodo is not only an art but also an exercise for the mind. Shodo calligraphy, he said, is an excellent method to correct one's handwriting and a proven method to achieve mental discipline and training for emotional stability.

"When you do calligraphy, you face a sheet of paper, which is pure white. That helps keep your mind at peace."

Matsuyama said this method has been used to reach a Zen state. "Calligraphy requires concentration and stability of the mind. This is the reason why the art is now being taught and practiced around the world."

Matsuyama comes from a long line of master calligraphers. He said he has been practicing the art for 40 years now, starting when he was just seven years old. He became a Shodo Shihan—a master calligrapher—at the age of 22, and began teaching in universities.

Izumo Works is now accepting students for trial sessions and membership. Matsuyama said anyone could try the art for an hour for only $25 each. He will be providing the materials for the trial sessions. Regular sessions for members are only $50 per month excluding materials. The sessions are held twice a week for an hour from Monday to Friday at 9am, 4pm and 7pm.

Matsuyama plans to expand the atelier to an art studio and retail shop where he will be displaying the artwork and selling some of them.

For more information, contact Shodo Shihan Mitchi Matsuyama at 285-0347 or e-mail him through matsuyama@izumoworks.com.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Hit-and-run

Crime Stoppers is once again seeking the community's assistance for information on any of the person(s) responsible for the hit and run, traffic fatality incident that occurred early morning on Sunday, May 4, 2008, along Isa Drive in Sadog Tasi Village. Police investigation revealed that the victim, Grande C. Nonan, a Filipino male, age 41, was walking east uphill using the eastbound shoulder when a vehicle speeding downhill ran off the highway and struck the victim. The vehicle then fled from the scene and headed in the west direction. It was described as a beige or dark brown sport utility vehicle. The victim suffered head trauma, huge lacerations to the upper and lower extremities. He was pronounced dead on the same morning. This case is pending further investigation.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Veteran's Day meetings set

November 11, 2008 Veterans Day, we will be paying tribute to all who served and are serving today in the U.S. Armed Forces.

This is to let all interested in being a part of this year's Veterans Day Committee, that we will begin to meet every Tuesdays at 9am starting on Sept. 23, 2008, at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend. Any questions, call 664-2650. ***(PR)***

An island called Ulithi

By CRYSTAL A. EDMISTER D.D.S.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Have you ever heard of Ulithi Island? If you have, good! I had not heard of it and decided to do some research, since it was to become my home for a week. Ulithi is an outer atoll island that is located northeast of Yap. Ulithi is comprised of one main atoll, plus three outlying sections. Falalop is the largest island in the atoll. A team from the Seventh-day Adventist Clinics in Saipan and Guam planned a dental mission trip to Falalop during the week of June 14-21, 2008. Our goal was to treat everyone who needed dental services for free, to serve others as Jesus did, to share about Jesus and to form relationships with the people we helped. The Saipan and Guam SDA Clinics donated supplies and we donated our time. There were three dentists who served on this mission trip: myself, Dr. Ken Pierson, and Dr. Chad Ordelheide, as well as Dmitry Losov, who presented healthy living health seminars to the patients.

Dr. Crystal A. Edmister and Dr. Ken Pierson pose with a patient.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

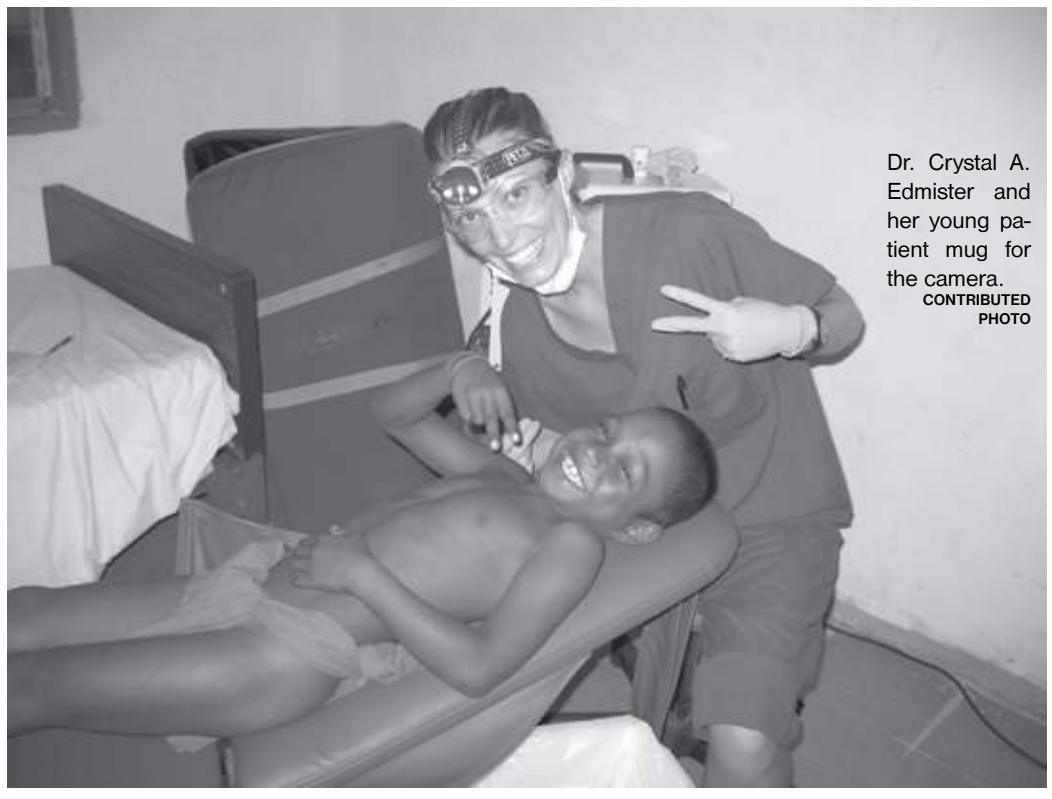
Our plane landed on the tiny, paved runway which spanned the length of the island. Most of the islanders were there to see who was arriving and to greet us! We were escorted by the health director to the dispensary. The dispensary is one of the only block buildings on the island. It has a small dental treatment room, a labor and delivery room, two recovery rooms and a pharmacy. I fell in love with the pharmacy and slept on the floor each night because it was the only room in the building that had air conditioning to keep the medications safe for use!

We started off bright and early each day with a line of patients ready to see us for dental treatment. We preformed fillings, cleanings, and extractions for young and old. There were always cute, curious kids watching us through the windows to keep up with what was happening! We helped to train some young Ulithian women on how to sterilize and set up an instrument tray. We appreciated their time and help. On average we treated 20 patients each day. It was very rewarding to see each patient walk out with a big smile, knowing that they now had a healthier mouth! The Ulithians were very thankful for the work we provided to them. To show us their appreciation, they brought us cooked meals of breadfruit, taro, bananas, and coconuts. We were all blessed by their kindness.

Our dental mission trip to the island of Falalop in the Ulithi atoll was a great experience and a huge success. It was a win-win situation for everyone involved—providers and patients!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Seventh-day Adventist dental mission, from left, Dr. Chad Ordelheide (from the Guam SDA Clinic), Dr. Crystal A. Edmister, the dental nurse in Ulithi, and Dr. Ken Pierson.

Dr. Ken Pierson checks the teeth of a young patient.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dr. Crystal A. Edmister and her young patient mug for the camera.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

We all would like to return to Ulithi again in the future to care for the islanders' dental needs. I am humbled once again to see how God can use our simple efforts to impact the world for His glory.

Crystal A. Edmister D.D.S. is with the Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic on Saipan.

A scene of the beach in Ulithi.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pearl Palacios teaching English in South Korea

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pearl Hunt Palacios is seen here with her family celebrating her graduation party at Hyatt Regency Resort.

Pearl Palacios, the starting point guard for the gold medal-winning CNMI National Women's Basketball Team in the 2006 Micronesian Games, is currently in South Korea teaching English as Second Language .

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, the daughter of Joaquin "Jack" U. Palacios, said she signed a one-year contract in the East Asian country to gain some experience and use what she learned in college. Palacios graduated from the University of Utah in June 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Speech Science.

Palacios, who is also the granddaughter of Esperanza Atalig Ulloa Palacios and the late Augustin Tudela Palacios, said she will forever be thankful and grateful to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office, or SHEFA, and her father for giving her the full support to successfully complete her education.

In fact, Palacios said, she is following in her father's footsteps. The elder Palacios, who also represented the CNMI in off-island basketball events, holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Guam.

After spending most of her adult life away from home, Palacios said she has not lost sight of her obligation to the CNMI and wants to contribute time to public service when she does come back.

"Until such time when the CUC power becomes stable, I will return. I'm saddened to see that the global economy is in a sad state. I also hope to see the people of the CNMI unite in one heart and accept each others' difference and pull back together because everyone is suffering and it is the only way to move forward," se said.

Palacios also wants to wish good luck to her uncle Chong Man Won in the upcoming election for U.S Delegate. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Island Snapshots

GOP CONVENTION
Far left, Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio, Junior Statesman participant Marisa D. Untalan of Tinian, and D.C. staff Walter F. Villagomez on the floor of the Republican National Convention.

Left, CNMI Republican National Convention delegates Resident Representative Tenorio, Frances Borja, Roman Tudela, MaryLou Ada, and Ana Teregeyo wave McCain-Palin signs as they participate in the historic 2008 RNC. This is the first year that the CNMI has ever sent a delegation to attend a national convention after becoming formally affiliated with the Republican National Committee in 2004.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CASINO BARRACKS STEFAN SEBASTIAN
On Tinian, workers have built temporary housing as the first phase of constructing a new hotel and resort on the island. The project is funded by the Bridge Investment Group.

TINIAN ROADWORKS
Above, workers on Tinian give a thumbs-up to a photographer while repairing a major stretch of the island's roads this week. The project will widen one of the main traffic arteries on the island to two lanes and install new sidewalks.

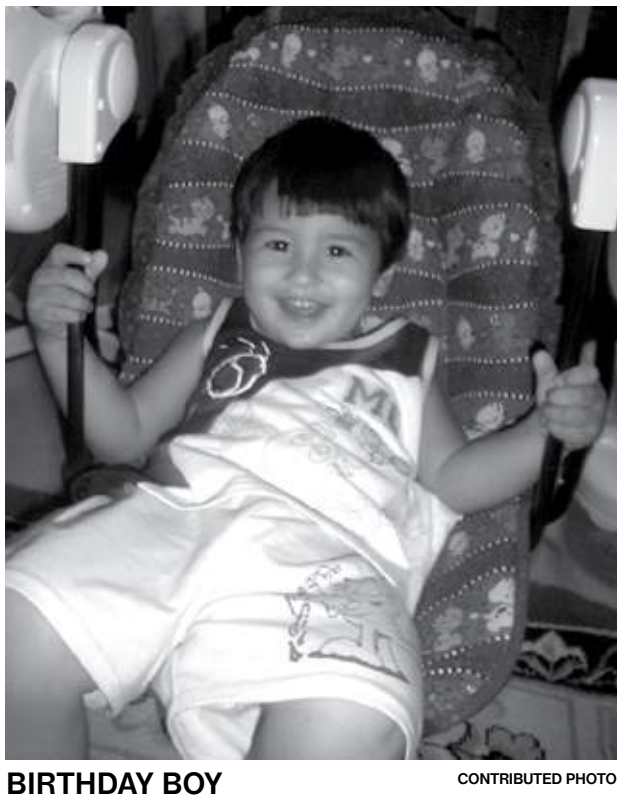
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SEMPER FI! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to Pvt. Ralph Vincent Cruz Villagomez on becoming a Marine! Pvt. Villagomez graduated from MRCD San Diego, Calif., on Sept. 12, 2008. He resides in Gualo Rai and his parents are Luis S. Villagomez and Maria LG Villagomez. Pvt. Villagomez will now go on to his Advanced Training in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Birthday greetings go out to Robert Lieto who celebrated his birthday Thursday, Sept. 18. Many more birthdays to come!

NEWLYWEDS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to the lovely couple Frank and Mhel dela Cruz, seen here during their wedding reception at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. Best wishes and God bless!

BELATED GREETINGS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated birthday greetings go out to Alvin Alvarez, who will celebrated his birthday on Sept. 18. "Hope your birthday is just the beginning of a year full of blessings! Happy birthday from Anna, Marco, and Avelyne.



BIRTHDAY BOY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated birthday greetings go out to William Everett M. Michell, who celebrated his second birthday Thursday, Sept. 18. Greetings from your Mom Ednalyn.

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,593.400
Down 176.300
(-3.70%)

HONG KONG
16,336.14
Down 1,301.05
(-7.38%)

JAKARTA
1,712.884
Down 57.01
(-2.86%)

TOKYO
11,367.05
Down 382.74
(-3.26%)

K. LUMPUR
1,002.99
Down 9.38
(-0.93%)

MANILA
2,352.37
Down 104.63
(-4.26%)

SINGAPORE
2,310.27
Down 109.02
(-4.51%)

SEOUL
1,376.99
Down 48.27
(-3.39%)

BANGKOK
573.21
Down -31.93
(-5.28%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,609.66
-449.36

NASDAQ
2,098.85
-109.05

S&P
1,156.39
+0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2623
British Pound	0.5497
Canadian Dollar	1.0682
Chinese Renmbi	6.8414
Euro	0.6976
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7783
Indian Rupee	46.73
Indonesian Rupiah	9415
Japanese Yen	104.475
Malaysian Ringgit	3.463
New Zealand Dollar	1.5035
Philippine Peso	47.26
Singapore Dollar	1.4339
South Korean Won	1149.65
Swiss Franc	1.1009
Taiwan Dollar	32.277
Thailand Baht	34.21

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Another nightmare on Wall Street: Dow down 450

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market took another nosedive Wednesday as the American banking system appeared even shakier and investors worried that the financial crisis is spinning so far out of control that even government rescues can't stop it.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which only two days earlier had suffered its steepest drop since the days after the Sept. 11 attacks, lost another 450 points. About $700 billion in investments vanished.

One day after the Federal Reserve stepped in with an emergency loan to keep American International Group Inc., one of the world's largest insurers, from going under, Wall Street wondered which companies might be the next to falter.

A major investor in ailing Washington Mutual Inc. removed a potential obstacle to a sale of the bank, and stock in two investment banks, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, was pummeled.

It was the fourth consecutive day of extraordinary turmoil for the American financial system, beginning with news on Sunday that another venerable investment house, Lehman Brothers, would be forced to file for bankruptcy.

The 4 percent drop Wednesday in the Dow reflected the stock market's first chance to digest the Fed's decision to rescue AIG with an $85 billion taxpayer loan that effectively gives it a majority stake in the company. AIG is important because it has essentially become a primary source of insurance for the entire financial industry.

AP

Trader Tom Kalikas, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange near the close of trading, Wednesday Sept. 17, 2008.

As the stock market staggered, the price of gold, which rises in times of panic, spiked as much as $90.40 an ounce. Bonds, a traditional safe haven for investors, also climbed.

"The economy is not short of money. It is short of confidence," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University.

The financial stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 dropped even more, falling 10 percent, and insurance that backs corporate debt soared for the last two surviving independent U.S. investment banks, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs.

"It seems as though banks are hoarding cash, no matter what rate they could be lending it at," said David Rosenberg, North American economist at Merrill Lynch.

Markets around the world also tumbled, with stocks dropping from Hong Kong to London. Brazil's benchmark index saw the largest drop, losing nearly 7 percent in a day.

Oil spikes $6 on safe-haven buying and weak dollar

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices shot up $6 a barrel Wednesday, rebounding as fears of a spreading crisis in the U.S. financial sector sent skittish investors scrambling out of stocks and into hard assets.

The big rally at least temporarily halted crude's steep, two-month slide and brought prices back within striking distance of $100. Investors were frantically buying the same commodity that until this week they shunned in the belief that the slowing global economy was eroding demand for energy.

But analysts said oil is unlikely to resume its upward climb; the economic downturn has indeed sharply curtailed U.S. energy consumption, and they noted that recent rallies often have been followed by sharp selloffs as oil market traders try to cash in.

Meanwhile at the pump, retail gas prices were virtually flat compared with the previous day as more Gulf Coast refineries began ramping up operations after the passage of Hurricane Ike. A gallon of regular inched up one-tenth of a penny to a new national average of $3.855, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Wednesday's oil rally was energized by the bailout of AIG. The Federal Reserve on Tuesday agreed to pump $85 million in taxpayer money into the insurance giant in return for a 79.9 percent ownership stake. The lifeline was aimed at avoiding an AIG collapse due to massive losses tied to the subprime mortgage crisis and the credit crunch.

Oil's climb picked up speed later in the day, stoked by fears that more turmoil lay ahead. Investors raced to dump stocks and poured money into energy, precious metals and other commodities, which are often bought as safe-haven investments during rough economic times.

Lehman close to sale of unit left off by Barclays

NEW YORK (AP)—As Lehman Brothers secured court approval to begin the sale of key North American units to Barclays bank, its negotiators out of court neared a deal to sell parts of the business Barclays had not yet claimed, starting with its prized money management business.

On Wednesday, Lehman secured a judge's approval to proceed with the process of selling its investment banking and trading operations, which Barclays PLC of Britain has agreed to buy. Judge James Peck is expected to consider final approval of that deal on Friday.

Lehman, which filed the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history on Monday, is trying to unload its assets and potentially save thousands of jobs. A person familiar with the negotiations, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks are ongoing, said Lehman was close to announcing a deal for the investment management division that includes its Neuberger Berman money management unit.

Private equity firms Hellman & Friedman and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. are among the bidders, the person said. A deal could be announced within the next few days, he said.

Neuberger Berman was once valued as high as $10 billion by Wall Street analysts, but now could fetch much less considering Lehman's bankruptcy filing.

Meanwhile, Lehman is also trying to sell global operations not covered under the Barclays deal, or others to go along with the investment management division.

In court, Lehman got a bankruptcy judge's initial approval of the sale of assets including its North American investment banking and trading operations, its Manhattan office tower and two New Jersey data centers to Barclays for $1.75 billion in cash.

Shares of Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs plunge

NEW YORK (AP)—Shares of Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley plunged on Wednesday, a sign that investors fear they can't survive in their present form as the last two major independent investment banks.

Executives of both companies insisted a day earlier, when they were reporting profits for the most recent quarter, that they do have the financial wherewithal to go it alone.

But analysts said the question increasingly is whether continued market turmoil could force them to acquire or be acquired by commercial banks, whose deposit-taking operation would provide a stable source of funding. The upheaval in the U.S. financial system has driven Merrill Lynch & Co. and Bear Stearns Cos. into emergency sales, and Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. into bankruptcy.

Anxious investors also bid up the price of protecting against a default of debt issued by the two investment banks. The spike in credit default swaps has fanned fear gripping Wall Street that the investment banking model is in jeopardy of extinction.

John Mack, Morgan Stanley's chief executive, struck back on Wednesday. He told employees in an e-mail that the No. 2 U.S. investment bank was "in the midst of a market controlled by fear and rumors."

"I know all of you are watching our stock price (Wednesday), and so am I," he said in the e-mail. "After the strong earnings and $179 billion in liquidity we announced—which virtually every equity analyst highlighted in their notes this morning—there is no rational basis for the movements in our stock or credit default spreads."

Will AIG plan cost taxpayers money, or just sleep?

WASHINGTON(AP)—American taxpayers awoke Wednesday to learn they may end up owning one of the world's largest insurers. They might now lose some sleep wondering whether the government's $85 billion loan to American International Group Inc. was a wise investment.

If the gamble succeeds, the company nurses itself back to health, unhinged financial markets calm down and taxpayers turn a profit.

If it fails, the American public feels the hit—and possibly finds itself rescuing other major financial institutions, swelling the deficit and potentially driving up interest rates on mortgages, student loans and other debt.

Analysts said Wednesday the odds are pretty high that the rescue will be a good investment for taxpayers, with AIG paying off the loan at a relatively high interest rate and the government potentially making money off its nearly 80 percent equity stake in the company.

In 1979, the U.S. guaranteed $1.2 billion worth of loans to the struggling automaker Chrysler. When the company rebounded four years later, the government reaped more than $300 million in profits.

While relatively unknown on Main Street before Wednesday, AIG is a colossus on Wall Street and financial districts around the globe, with operations in more than 130 countries and $1 trillion in assets on its balance sheet.

Besides life, property and other insurance offerings, AIG provides asset-management services and airplane leases. Its myriad businesses are also linked to mutual funds, annuities and other retirement products held by millions of ordinary Americans.

Online job searches: As many dead ends as fast lanes

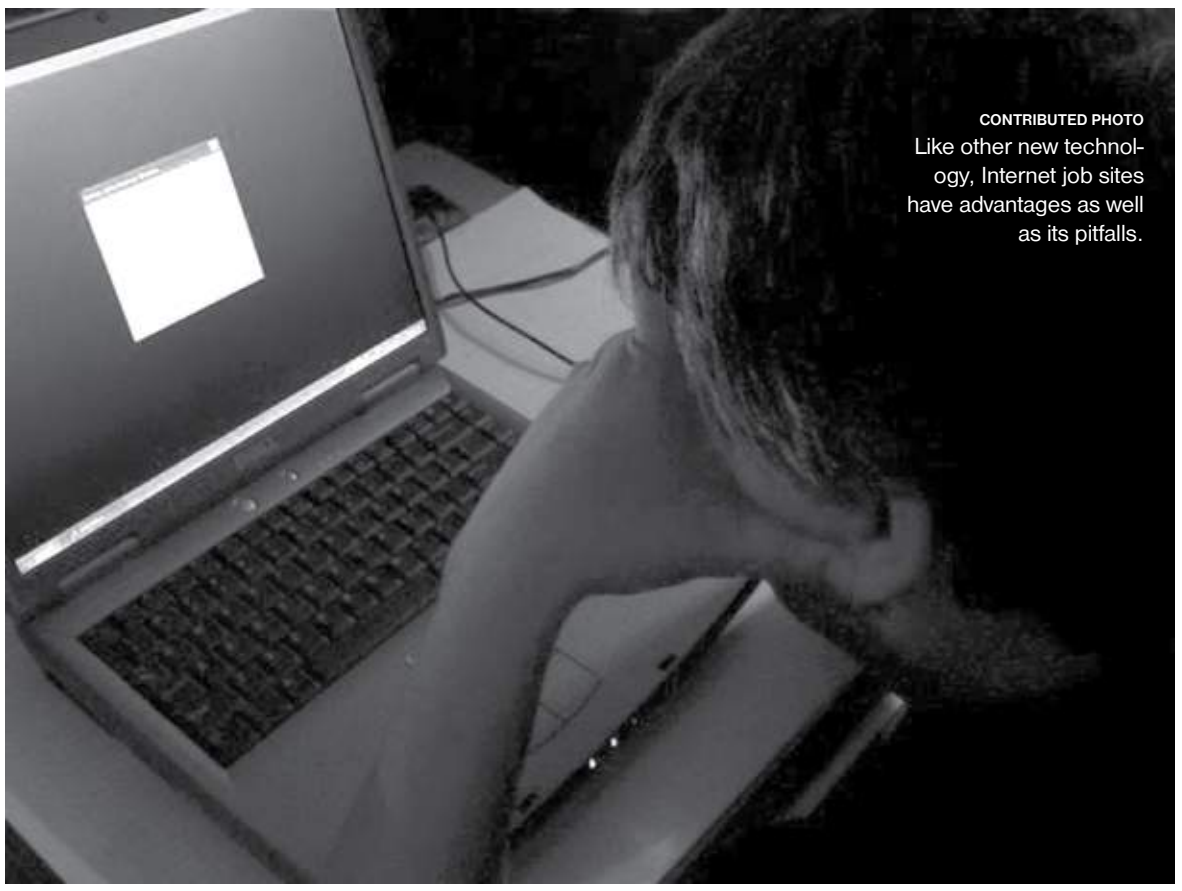
By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Recently I asked you to share which Web sites had become indispensable in your job searches—and which ones were driving you crazy.

Professional resume writer Wallace Holland's favorite site is also the one that frustrates him most often: USAJobs.gov, the federal government's primary job site.

"This site is supposed to be the one-stop for federal jobs. However, some agencies ... listed on this site have their own separate application procedures, which means job seekers will have to complete the entire registration and profile input process again for those agencies, which don't use the USAJobs format," Holland, of Washington, wrote in a recent e-mail.

"Copying and pasting text directly into each field at USAJobs and the other federal job sites can take as long as three hours per site. Also, some jobs that do not meet the criteria specified in the search agents occasionally are referred. If applicants do not review each listing carefully, they could waste time applying for a job for which they are not eligible. Finally, federal agencies that use this site to recruit applicants can take weeks, even months to make selections."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Like other new technology, Internet job sites have advantages as well as its pitfalls.

Elizabeth Biehn, a human resources director who lives in Alexandria, Va., has used a variety of job sites, reporting mixed luck. "I had high hopes for JobFox, but found that HR jobs are not a hot ticket with them," she wrote. Another site, HR Ladder, had more relevant listings, but they were often posted late, she said. "With one position, the hiring folks were already down to their two top candidates when they received my resume."

Other job sites, such as those for the Society for Human Resources Management and CEO Update, have proved fairly reliable, she said, "but I really think that I will find my next challenge via friends and colleagues."

Robert Gluck, of Herndon, Va., has also turned to a variety of sites in his search for a position as a Web site manager/information architect. "My favorite site by far is CareerBuilder.com. It is easy to use, easy on the eyes and just seems to find the type of positions I'm looking for," he said. "That said, I haven't gotten any actual interviews yet via anything I've applied to through CareerBuilder, but at least it doesn't drive me crazy."

What does drive him crazy: Monster.com. "It is busy, hard on the eyes, and just doesn't seem to generate the leads I want," he said. "Also, their daily e-mail notifications are really hard to read."

Another nonstarter: "WorkTree.com is awful, and I regret the money I spent registering on that site."

He praises the usability of LinkedIn's job search, but he hasn't gotten many leads from it. Ditto for The Washington Post's job site, which he described as "pretty efficient and useful."

Freelancers have their own preferences. Jay Boucher, a Web professional who lives in Hoboken, N.J., recommends Krop.com, which specializes in creative and tech jobs. "It has such a clean design and simple search that it's a joy to use," he said, "and the postings are very good."

He said he's just begun tinkering with eLance. "I've registered but haven't bid on any projects," he said. "Before you make your first bid you have to complete a test, which includes watching 20 minutes of video on `eLance University.' The process is foreign to me, and I haven't had the time to learn and sort out all the info. It has a complex interface, with lots of filtering tools."

The competitors to the big Internet job sites often tout their ability to provide better matches using their proprietary software, but not all of you are impressed with such tools. Antonio Lozada, of Herndon, recently started using JobFox to search for jobs, but so far he hasn't found that it finds matches that are any better than what he could find on more established sites.

And there's another downside to "better" matching, he wrote in a recent e-mail. "You have to fill out an extensive questionnaire (personality test included)," he said.

Finally, no matter what site you use, hang on to your skepticism, as Kenniss Henry, of Cheverly, Md., found.

Henry, a project manager, said she applied for a "seemingly great opportunity" she saw in an ad on Craigslist — but the response she received suggested that the ad was a scam.

She doesn't blame the host site. "I recognize that Craigslist is not responsible," she said, "and that no one can scrutinize everyone who posts to their Web site."

But before you send someone your personal information through a Web site—any Web site—you should do so.

Don't use an outside offer to prove your worth

By LILY GARCIA
Special to The Washington Post

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for 10 years.

A reader writes:

"I'm currently being considered for a promotion, which would be my dream job. At the same time, another organization would like me to apply for a position similar to what I do now. A mentor at work has advised me that she's pushing me for the promotion to our superiors, but she thinks I should go talk to the other organization, to see what they have to say, and for interview practice, even if I have no intention of leaving.

"If I were offered another position by this outside organization, would it be wise to bring up the other offer to my current superiors to show how well regarded I am by outside organizations, or would it be inappropriate to bring up another offer while under consideration for the dream job? Would I be better off keeping my mouth shut about the other offer until they come up with a decision about the dream job, or would bringing it up make me seem more valuable?

"I'm clearly new to this game, but I'd really appreciate the advice of an expert!

The response:

I agree with your mentor that it cannot hurt to explore other opportunities, both for the interview practice and because you never know what might be in store.

It is a no-no, however, to tell your current employer that you have been offered another job unless you are prepared to tender your resignation. Bringing up the fact that you have another offer with the explicit purpose of leveraging a raise or promotion is in terrible taste. It is a maneuver that calls your loyalty and integrity into question and might leave your employer wondering whether you really are as valuable as you think you are. Worse still, they might call your bluff and, rather than scrambling to keep you, wish you well in your future endeavors and show you the door.

By securing another offer and talking about it, you are seeking a way of expressing your relative market value. The message you are trying to convey is, "Hey, I'm pretty great, and I deserve more money and recognition than you guys are giving me. In case you don't believe me, check out this nifty offer letter." The offer letter might be a testament to your value, but bringing it up will make you seem opportunistic and devious. I have witnessed too many promising employees tarnish their reputation by attempting this trick.

Never mind the impact on your reputation with the employer that offers you the other job. Suppose you do get your dream job with your current organization. Maybe you are not ready to go work for someone else now, but you might want to make a move later. If you leave them with the impression that you only interviewed so that you could secure a bargaining chip to use with your current employer, they will be hesitant to consider you in the future.

You don't need another offer to prove your worth. Without being tacky and shamelessly self-promoting, you can use performance meetings, project status meetings, and other conversations with your supervisors as an opportunity to describe your value to the organization. Keep detailed records of the milestones you have achieved and use metrics, whenever possible, to make your case. This means expressing your accomplishments in terms of measurable goals rather than amorphous feelings. Say, for example, "The membership campaign I launched in April increased our subscriptions by 28 percent," rather than, "The April membership campaign was a great success."

The best way to secure a raise or a promotion is not to prove how much people outside of the organization like you, but to do a great job and make sure that your leaders know about it.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Credit-card changes coming fast and furious

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Between now and the end of the year, it's more important than ever to carefully read any information leaflets sent to you by your credit-card company, as well as scrutinize your statement. With tighter regulations to the Federal Trade Commission Act hanging over their heads, some of credit-card companies are trying to get some changes in while they still can.

One of the changes the act will make is that arbitrarily increasing the interest rate on a pre-existing balance will be prohibited. Consumers, even those with excellent credit and responsible credit-card management, have been receiving information leaflets saying their interest rates are going up—for no apparent reason.

Read your statements carefully and pay attention to the interest-rate information to make sure it hasn't changed, and check your available balance. Credit-card companies can (and do) arbitrarily lower your available credit, making it appear that you're using a larger percentage of available credit, which impacts your credit score and can make your interest rates go up. It's a vicious cycle.

Debit-card transactions will see changes, too. When you use a debit card to make a purchase, especially at a gas station, you're no longer in control of your money. Let's say you know you have $100 in your bank account. You swipe your card and ring up $40 for gas. The station will often put a larger hold on your money, say for perhaps $80. Then you drive to the grocery store where you spend another $50. You assume that, out of the $100, you have $10 left. Wrong. You're overdrawn by $30 because of the gas station's hold on your money, and that hold can stay there for days.

Solution: At gas stations, pay inside and use the PIN. This will force the transaction to go through at the exact amount of the purchase.

Don't write a check or use your debit card unless the money is in the bank and you've verified that it's been credited to your account.

However, if you use the Internet or ATMS to check your account balances, you could be given the wrong information, as the computer is set up to acknowledge deposits, even if they haven't been credited to your account.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Nation

McCain, Obama scramble to shift economic message

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)— With economic anxiety rising, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama scrambled Wednesday to adjust their messages to connect more directly with financially struggling voters.

Obama talks directly into the camera in a new, two-minute television ad on how he'll fix an economy in which "paychecks are flat and home values are falling." McCain and running mate Sarah Palin softened opposition to government bailouts, accepting the U.S. takeover of the nation's largest insurer as unfortunate but necessary to protect ordinary Americans.

"The shot that has been called by the Feds - it's understandable but very, very disappointing that taxpayers are called upon for another one," Palin told reporters during a visit to delicatessen in Cleveland.

Both McCain and Obama advocated cracking down on freewheeling Wall Street practices and for tough new regulations on financial institutions.

Obama ridiculed McCain's calls for more regulation as an eleventh-hour conversion for one who has long championed deregulation.

Too many in Washington and on Wall Street "weren't minding the store. They sat on their hands until it was too late," Obama told a rally in Elko, Nev. He challenged McCain's vow to take on the "old boy's network...He hasn't taken them on for the last 26 years."

AP

Republican vice presidential candidate, Alaska Gov., Sarah Palin points to her running mate, Republican presidential candidate, Sen., John McCain, R-Ariz., as she explains to supporters the qualities that will make, in her opinion, McCain the best choice for president during a town hall style meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich., Wednesday night, Sept. 17, 2008.

The increased emphasis on the faltering economy came on a day when stocks resumed their downward plunge following Tuesday night's government takeover of American International Group Inc. with an $85 billion two-year loan from the Federal Reserve in return for a majority stake in the company.

"The focus of any such action should be to protect the millions of Americans who hold insurance policies, retirement plans and other accounts with AIG," McCain said in a statement. "We must not bail out the management and speculators who created this mess."

The turnabout came a day after McCain strongly opposed additional government relief and praised the government's decision not to rescue Lehman Brothers after it had intervened to help investment bank Bear Stearns and mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

His Democratic rival addressed the AIG takeover in Elko, saying the government acted "to prevent an even larger crisis." Arguing that the U.S. housing market was "in a shambles," Obama said it was important now for the Federal Reserve to ensure that families with AIG insurance are protected. "It must not bail out the shareholders or the management of AIG that were making big profits when times were good."

Hackers break into Sarah Palin's e-mail account

WASHINGTON (AP)— Hackers broke into the Yahoo! e-mail account that Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin used for official business as Alaska's governor, revealing as evidence a few inconsequential personal messages she has received since John McCain selected her as his running mate.

"This is a shocking invasion of the governor's privacy and a violation of law. The matter has been turned over to the appropriate authorities and we hope that anyone in possession of these e-mails will destroy them," the McCain campaign said in a statement.

The Secret Service contacted The Associated Press on Wednesday and asked for copies of the leaked e-mails, which circulated widely on the Internet. The AP did not comply.

The disclosure Wednesday raises new questions about the propriety of the Palin administration's use of nongovernment e-mail accounts to conduct state business. The practice was revealed months ago - prior to Palin's selection as a vice presidential candidate - after political critics obtained internal e-mails documenting the practice by some aides.

One person whose e-mail to Palin apparently was among those disclosed, Amy B. McCorkell, declined to discuss her correspondence. "I do not know anything about it," McCorkell said. "I'm not giving you any comment." Wired.com said McCorkell later confirmed that she did send the e-mail to Palin.

Another of the e-mails apparently revealed Wednesday was an exchange in July with Alaska Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell discussing a talk show host who had been critical of Parnell. Parnell declined to discuss the matter.

Palin herself used "gov.sarah" in one of her e-mail addresses, but the hackers targeted her "gov.palin" account. Her husband used "fek9wnr" in his address. "Fe" is the representation for iron, and "k9" is an abbreviation for canine. Todd Palin was the winner of the grueling Iron Dog snowmobile race, and "fek9wnr" also is Todd Palin's vehicle license tag in Alaska.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves after speaking during a rally in Elko, Nev., Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008.

Obama supporters say get tougher, more passionate

ELKO, Nev. (AP)—Worried Democrats want Barack Obama to get tougher, show more passion. Why is he so calm, supporters ask, so close to an election that looks so tight?

"Just keep steady," Obama tells the nervous Nellies. "I'm skinny but I'm tough. I'm from Chicago."

Obama hears the concern, from senior Democrats and big-money contributors, from columnists and supporters along the rope lines at campaign events. He heard it again as he stood in an hourlong receiving line in Hollywood to pose for pictures with donors who paid $28,500 to be with him Tuesday night.

"I know that a lot of you, just in conversations while we were in the photo lines, had all sorts of suggestions," Obama said. "And a lot of people have gotten nervous and concerned. `Why is this as close as it is? And what's going on?'"

"We always knew this was going to be hard, and this is a leap for the American people," Obama said. "And we're running against somebody who has a formidable biography, a compelling biography. He's a genuine American hero, somebody who served in uniform and suffered through some things that very few of us can imagine."

Urging Democrats not to worry about his cool demeanor, Obama said, "The reason I'm calm is I have confidence in the American people."

But many of his supporters are upset that polls show the race is pretty much even, even with Obama running against a Republican who used to brag that he voted 90 percent of the time with the unpopular President Bush. The economy is teetering, and the country is still at war, but seven weeks from Election Day the race is far from the slam-dunk Democrats dreamed about.

And there does seem to be more bite in Obama's daily remarks.

With unemployment rising and big financial firms failing, Obama and Republican rival John McCain both have pushed the economy to the front of their speeches. "The entire campaign has shifted," Obama said.

Pentagon approves spy satellite program

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon has approved plans to buy and launch two commercial-class imagery satellites to complement its classified constellation of spy craft.

The Pentagon will also increase the amount of imagery purchased from private companies operating similar satellites already in the sky.

The decision last week caps months of wrangling between the Air Force, the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Intelligence Directors Office and the Office of the Secretary of Defense over whether to buy and operate commercial satellites, or to pump the money into buying dramatically more imagery from the commercial companies that already have similar satellites in orbit.

The National Reconnaissance Office will buy two commercial satellites for about $1.7 billion. The satellites are to be launched around 2012, according to Pentagon documents obtained by The Associated Press.

But critics of the program say the Pentagon is spending billions to recreate and compete with private companies like GeoEye of Dulles, Va., and DigitalGlobe of Longmont, Colo., which are expected to put four new satellites into orbit by 2013. On its face the decision conflicts with the president's national security space policy, which directs the government to buy as much commercial imagery as possible to help the companies withstand competition from subsidized foreign satellite companies.

An intelligence official said Wednesday that the deal must still survive White House and Office of Management and Budget muster.

Purchasing the imagery from the companies may also be less expensive. The GeoEye 1 satellite was launched on Sept. 6 for $502 million, including the satellite, launch, insurance and four ground stations, according to company spokesman Mark Brender. It is expected to begin taking 16-inch resolution imagery this weekend.

The Pentagon may decide to turn over operation of the new satellites to the private companies, the internal document notes.

The new satellites will comprise the Broad Area Space-Based Imagery Collection satellite system, or BASIC. They will also have 16-inch resolution. They could be used to spy on enemy troop movements, spot construction at suspected nuclear sites or alert commanders to militant training camps. Their still images would be pieced together with higher resolution secret satellites into one large mosaic.

The new satellite system is meant to bridge what intelligence agencies fear will become a gap caused by the cancellation in September 2005 of a major component of the Future Imagery Architecture system overseen by the National Reconnaissance Office. The primary contractor, The Boeing Co., headquartered in Chicago, ran into technical problems developing the satellite and spent nearly $10 billion, blowing its budget by $3 billion to $5 billion before the Pentagon pulled the plug, according to industry experts and government reports.

A single satellite can visit one spot on Earth once or twice every day. BASIC's additional satellites will allow multiple passes over the same sites, alerting U.S. government users to potential trouble, humanitarian crises or natural disasters such as floods.

Ike evacuees clog road to Galveston, then kept out

AP

Michael Clow carries a box of Meals Ready-to-Eat given to him by the Texas National Guard on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008, in Port Bolivar, Texas.

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Residents trying to get back to this hurricane-ravaged city Wednesday spent hours fuming in gridlocked traffic, only to be turned away at the bridge by officials worried that the crippled island can't accommodate that many people.

Traffic backed up for 20 miles along Interstate 45, the one route onto Galveston Island, with residents jockeying for position with utility workers, repair crews and police trying to begin repairs to the city wrecked by Hurricane Ike five days ago.

The city announced Tuesday that people could briefly return under a new "look and leave" plan, causing evacuees all over the state to pack up and head for the coast.

Hours later, it abruptly halted the policy, but some in the long line Wednesday angrily complained they'd never heard the policy was rescinded.

"I don't understand this," Carlos Azucena said, motioning toward repair workers after waiting in line three hours before he was rejected in his third try to go home. "You see those other people. They don't even live here; I live in Galveston."

Ike's death toll in the U.S. hit 50 Wednesday and appeared to level off in Texas, where search teams pulled out of Galveston having searched the entire island for survivors. The task force had checked on almost 6,000 people and performed more than 3,500 rescues since Friday. Seventeen people have died in the state.

In Houston, most of the nation's fourth-largest city was still without power and people were still lining up at dozens of distribution centers for basic needs. In his second stop in the state since Ike, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said distribution of food and water was going smoothly.

"I'm happy to see that things are moving there," said Chertoff, who also reviewed operations at FEMA's primary distribution center. "We will continue to make sure the flow to the (centers) works uninterrupted."

His appearance came a day after local officials complained that supplies were slow in getting to distribution points, and that the entire process had glitches.

Emergency utility crews were among the long line trudging toward Galveston, and the crowd of residents was only delaying repairs, officials said.

"It's not a good scenario," said Raquelle Lewis, a Texas Department of Transportation spokeswoman.

Lewis pleaded with Galveston residents not to waste scarcely available fuel by trying to head home.

Galveston City Manager Steve LeBlanc said police and county officials were working on opening more emergency lanes for first responders.

"We'll get it cleared up. We'll get it unclogged," he said.

City and state officials still want people who stayed through the storm to get off the island because of concerns a growing threat of disease. Dr. David Lakey, state health commissioner, said he has seen respiratory illnesses, minor traumas such as burns and falls, stress and fatigue.

"The capacity to take care of moderate injuries and illnesses is not here at this time," Lakey said. "It's my opinion that individuals should not be living on the island at this time."

The University of Texas Medical Branch hospital won't be able to take patients for a month or more. Seriously injured people are flown to Houston or elsewhere for treatment.

Galveston County Medical Examiner Stephen Pustilnik confirmed the first death in nearby Brazoria County and provided details on the five Galveston deaths: One drowned in a car, one was found in a hotel room, two dialysis patients died when the power went out and their machines failed, and a cancer patient on a breathing machine also died in the power outage.

Deadly crash raises safety doubts about SoCal rail

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A head-on collision that left 25 people dead has brought new scrutiny to the safety of Southern California's regional rail service—a system that has logged more fatalities than any similarly sized system in the nation in recent years.

The catastrophic collision of a Metrolink commuter train and a Union Pacific freight train last week also prompted calls for national safety reforms.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants a review of state and federal rail oversight, and Congress is considering compelling railroads to install satellite-linked technology that can detect runaway trains and put on the brakes—an idea that has languished for years.

Two statistics put Metrolink at a disadvantage relative to other commuter-rail systems when it comes to safety: It has far more street-level crossings than similarly sized railroads, and must share tracks with freight trains more frequently than any of its peers.

"Southern California has the most high-risk track in America," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "How can you put commuter trains on the same track as freight trains—going in opposite directions - with nothing more than a signal that can be missed, and has been missed, to avert disaster?"

Records and official reports show at least 74 people have died in Metrolink accidents since 1998, not including the 25 killed Friday along a horseshoe-shaped stretch of track in suburban Chatsworth.

Many of the accidents involved trespassing by cars or pedestrians who sidestepped warning signals or took shortcuts across tracks. Some were suicides.

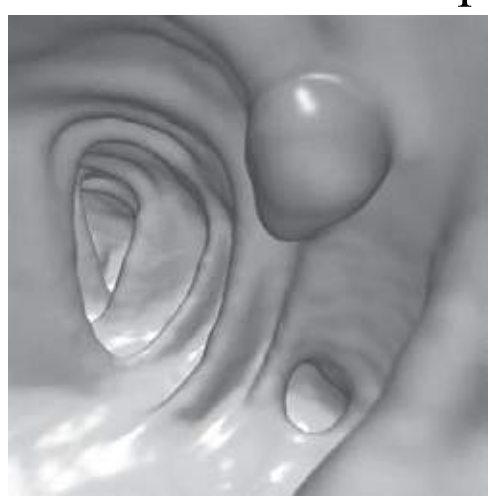
In 2005, 11 people died and about 180 were injured when a man who later claimed he was suicidal parked his sport utility vehicle on the tracks in Glendale. The driver was convicted of murder.

In 2002, a freight train plowed head-on into a Metrolink train in Orange County, killing two passengers and injuring more than 200. In 2003, a Metrolink train smashed into a truck at a railroad crossing in Burbank, killing two people and injuring 32 others.

A 2006 federal study of commuter rail said accidents dropped nationwide between 1996 and 2005, despite a surge in passengers. Fatalities, it said, remained relatively stable, averaging 78 a year.

The Federal Transit Administration study, which examined records from January 2001 to July 2006, found that the accident rate on Metrolink was about average for commuter rail when passenger miles traveled were considered.

Colon X-ray seen as effective at spotting cancer



AP

In this file photo released by the University of Wisconsin Medical School a 3-D image that was computer-generated from a series of X-rays taken by a CT scanner is seen.

ATLANTA (AP)—A long-awaited federal study of an X-ray alternative to the dreaded colonoscopy confirms its effectiveness at spotting most cancers, although it was far from perfect.

Medicare is already considering paying for this cheaper, less intrusive option that could persuade more people to get screened for colon cancer. And some experts believe the new method may boost the 50 percent screening rate for a cancer that is the country's second biggest killer.

"We're talking about for the first time really screening the population," said Dr. Carl Jaffe, an imaging expert at the National Cancer Institute who was not involved in the research.

In the new study, the largest of its kind, the so-called "virtual colonoscopy" identified nine out of 10 people who had cancers and large growths seen by regular colonoscopies.

But there were flaws, too. Among them: The radiologists sometimes misread the X-ray, leading them to spot polyps that weren't there. That led to unnecessary follow-up testing.

The X-ray test's real value may be in showing who really needs a regular colonoscopy—it was better at ruling cancer out than it was at detecting it, suggests the report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Colorectal cancer will claim about 50,000 lives this year. The point of screening, widely recommended at age 50, is to find growths before they turn cancerous.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas executes man who raped, killed 93-year-old

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A man who raped and murdered a 93-year-old woman in her Dallas-area home was executed Wednesday after he apologized to his victim's relatives. "I'm sorry for what I did," William Murray told two nephews of Rena Ratcliff who watched him through a window in the death chamber. "I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me. The Lord has forgiven me." Murray then looked through an adjacent window where his mother and two brothers were among the witnesses and said: "I'll be there waiting for y'all, all right? God bless." Eight minutes later at 6:20 p.m., he was pronounced dead. Murray, a former auto mechanic and laborer from Kaufman, was the ninth prisoner put to death this year in the nation's most active death-penalty state. Murray's lawyer said appeals were exhausted. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the case earlier this year. In addition, a clemency bid to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles was turned down this week.

Report: Emission rules to boost Calif. economy

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 12 years ultimately will benefit California's economy and save its residents money, according to a report released Wednesday by state air regulators. The analysis found that the state's economy would grow at a faster rate than if it did nothing to cut the emissions that have been blamed for contributing to global warming. It offers the most authoritative projection yet of the economic consequences of the state's 2006 greenhouse gas law. "Our historic effort here in California to deal with the crisis of global warming will also have a benefit of saving our businesses and residents money," state Air Resources Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols told reporters during a conference call. In June, the board proposed a series of ambitious measures to require cleaner-burning vehicles, increase renewable energy and impose an emissions cap on major polluters. It is working under a year-end deadline to finalize those strategies.

Man accepts plea deal in toddler dehydration death

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A man charged with failing to help a toddler who died of dehydration under his sister's care accepted a plea deal that will likely keep him out of prison. Robert Patterson, 31, pleaded guilty Monday to a felony charge of risk of injury to a minor. The charge could bring up to 10 years in prison, but the recommended sentence under the plea deal is five years of probation. Amari Jackson was 23 months old when he died in February. Police said Patterson's 39-year-old sister, Sharon Patterson, deprived the boy of food and liquids for at least seven days as punishment for wetting a bed. Amari's mother, Sara Hicks, said Robert Patterson deserves prison time. "It seems like they're getting off on a technicality," she said. "It doesn't make sense. ... He sat back and let it happen."

Asia

New Thai PM reaches for reconciliation with rivals

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's new prime minister showed his determination to mend political rifts by quickly shaking hands with the opposition leader Wednesday. But the gesture didn't appease anti-government protesters, who called him unfit for the job because of ties to a disgraced former leader.

Many analysts said the negative reaction to Somchai Wongsawat's election by Parliament presaged further turmoil from activists who seized the prime minister's office compound three weeks ago. Others, however, said the soft-spoken Somchai might help open the door to dialogue.

Somchai, a 61-year-old former judge, is known as a conciliator. He's a sharp contrast to his combative predecessor, Samak Sundaravej, who was the original target of the protesters and was forced from office last week by a court ruling for taking pay to host TV shows.

The new leader appealed for unity during a news conference after his election.

"It is now time for Thailand to unite, to reconcile and to solve the conflict," he said. "It is not unusual to be angry, but we have to work together to make Thailand peaceful again."

Somchai carries heavy baggage, however. He is married to the sister of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 coup amid corruption allegations. And he is deputy leader of the ruling People's Power Party, which was formed by Thaksin's allies.

The new prime minister "might have a gentlemanly nature, a soft-spoken style, and he might have a better reputation than everyone else (in the ruling party), but blood is thicker than water," said Somsak Kosaisuk, a leader of the protesting People's Alliance for Democracy. "Thaksin needs someone he can control."

Drawing loud cheers from protesters camped on the grounds of the Government House complex, Somsak said the sit-in would continue until the "remnants of Thaksin's regime are gone."

The alliance, which had called Samak a puppet of Thaksin, charges that Thaksin used his personal wealth to corrupt politics during his years as prime minister and then benefited from his high office.

AP

Thailand's Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, center, arrives at the Finance Ministry in Bangkok on Thursday Sept. 18, 2008.

Kim's consort: A vital player in North Korea?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Kim Jong Il's companion and former secretary is emerging as a key player in the communist nation after the autocratic leader's stroke.

South Korean officials are keeping a close eye on Kim Ok amid some intelligence reports that she's not only nursing the ailing leader but also is signing official documents on his behalf.

Experts believe the communist leader is retaining a firm grip on power, running the nation from his bed with the help of military and communist party chiefs in line with the nation's "songun," or military first, policy. But they are not discounting the role of the woman who is seen by some as the de-facto first lady.

"She is the closest person personally to Kim Jong Il," said Marcus Noland, a North Korea expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. "In some ways, she's the one guarding the bedroom or hospital door. She would be in a position to convey his preferences."

Kim, 66, reportedly suffered a stroke last month and is recuperating following emergency brain surgery - though North Korean officials deny the communist leader, who was last seen in public more than a month ago, is ill.

The notoriously secretive nation bars ordinary citizens from Web access and most cannot make international phone calls. Late founder Kim Il Sung engineered a cult of personality that encompassed himself and his son, and which tolerates no criticism or opposition.

Kim Jong Il was groomed for 20 years to take over as leader, finally assuming the mantle after his father's death in 1994 in the communist world's first hereditary transfer of power. He has three sons - Jong Nam, Jong Chul and Jong Un - but does not appear to have anointed any of them as his heir-apparent.

The longer Kim - known to have diabetes and heart disease - remains bedridden, the greater the likelihood of a power vacuum, analysts say.

"If his health problem prolongs, some internal feuding for power will likely occur," said Kang Sung-yoon, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan: US did not warn of any strike

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's foreign minister says officials were not warned about a suspected U.S. missile strike in its northwest that came amid American assurances of respect for the sovereignty of its anti-terror ally. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says such assurances and the strike indicated "an institutional disconnect" on the U.S. side. He made his comments Thursday. The suspected strike reportedly killed six people Wednesday. Such strikes have intensified in recent weeks in Pakistan, while a U.S.-led ground assault on its territory prompted official Pakistani protests. The Wednesday strike came as the top U.S. military officer, Adm. Mike Mullen, told Pakistani leaders during a visit that America was committed to respecting Pakistan's sovereignty.

Indian PM blames homegrown militants for bombings

NEW DELHI (AP)—India must revamp its intelligence agencies to deal with a new threat from homegrown militants, India's prime minister said Wednesday, a rare acknowledgment that Indians—and not foreign Islamic groups—may have carried out a series of recent bombings. India has routinely blamed Pakistani or Bangladesh-based militant groups for dozens of attacks in the last three years. But increasingly, evidence has pointed to the involvement of Indian Muslims, raising difficult questions for the government about growing anger among India's large Muslim minority. Speaking for the first time since the serial blasts that killed 21 and wounded about 100 more in New Delhi on Saturday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said it was locals that posed the biggest threat. "The role of Pakistan-based terrorist groups cannot be minimized, but the involvement of local elements in recent blasts adds a new dimension to the terrorist threat," Singh told a gathering of state governors in New Delhi.

Myanmar monk attempts suicide at famous temple

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A Buddhist monk slashed his throat in a suicide attempt at Myanmar's most sacred temple, the scene of several pro-democracy protests that erupted a year ago, witnesses said Wednesday. A trustee of the Shwedagon temple said the monk became desperate after running out of money to pay for medical care. It was the second suicide attempt by a monk at the pagoda this year. The temple has a history as a center for mass political gatherings, and was a focus for Buddhist monks and pro-democracy protesters last September. Tuesday's attempted suicide occurred at a time when the authorities have tightened security in Yangon and other cities to try to prevent any protests this month marking the first anniversary of the anti-government demonstrations. Those protests were initially small, consisting of people complaining that the military government had failed to ease their economic burdens. They later turned into broader anti-government demonstrations, led by militant monks and brought as many as 100,000 people out into the streets on Yangon, the country's biggest city.

6,200 Chinese babies ill, 3 die from tainted milk

BEIJING (AP)—The government was dispatching thousands of inspectors to monitor producers as officials reported Wednesday that the number of babies sick from tainted milk formula had climbed dramatically to nearly 6,200 from 1,200 a day earlier.

At least three children have died and more than 1,300 others, mostly newborns, remain hospitalized with dozens suffering from acute kidney failure.

Early Thursday, authorities arrested 12 more people in connection with the scandal, said Shi Guizhong, spokesman for the Hebei provincial police. The official said that brought the overall total detained to 18.

Police also confiscated nearly 500 pounds of melamine, the industrial chemical added to milk powder that has ignited a widening food safety crisis.

Health Minister Chen Zhu said Wednesday he expected the numbers of affected babies to increase as "more and more parents take kids to the hospital."

The head of China's quality control watchdog agency, Li Changjiang, said 5,000 inspectors will be sent out nationwide to monitor companies after government testing showed that 20 percent of the companies producing milk powder had dairy products with melamine.

The chemical additive was at the center of a pet food scandal in the United States in 2007. An estimated 1,500 dogs and cats died after ingesting a pet food ingredient manufactured in China that was laced with melamine.

'Post-Olympic era' off to a rocky start in China

BEIJING (AP)—The Olympic flame is out, the smog is back, and traffic again clogs the roads.

Welcome to what commentators are calling China's "post-Olympic era," in which euphoria over the Beijing Games is slowly giving way to economic worries, new safety crises and a future both brimming with confidence and tinged with uncertainty.

So far, it's off to a rocky start.

China received widespread praise for organizing the games, which formally ended Wednesday with the Paralympics' closing ceremony.

Even before then, however, reality reasserted itself with the collapse earlier this month at an illegal mine waste dump that killed at least 259 people and forced the resignation of a provincial governor. Since then, a product safety scandal has roiled the nation, with contaminated milk powder causing the death of three infants and sickening more than 6,200 others.

Both crises point to underlying systemic weaknesses that the Olympics did little to eliminate, despite a massive effort to clean up Beijing's polluted air, boost security and ensure smooth logistics. China's mines remain the world's deadliest and creaky infrastructure a constant threat, while an overhaul of the product safety system has proved only partially effective.

World

16 dead in attack at US Embassy in Yemen

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—Militants linked to al-Qaida launched a brazen attack against the U.S. Embassy in the Yemeni capital Wednesday, firing automatic weapons and setting off grenades and a car bomb in a furious fusillade that failed to breach the walls but killed 16 people, including a newly wed New York woman.

It was the deadliest direct assault on a U.S. Embassy in a decade claiming the lives of six attackers, six Yemeni guards and four civilians.

Yemeni security officials said civilian casualties could have been far worse. The streets were relatively empty because many people sleep late during the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to press.

About 9:15 a.m., multiple explosions from the car bomb and grenades shook the affluent Dhahr Himyar district, a residential area dotted with five-star hotels and other embassies. Palls of black smoke rose over the street, lined with modern buildings in the style of the centuries-old white-trimmed mud brick houses that are a landmark of San'a's Old City. Snipers hidden across the street fired on emergency personnel rushing to the scene.

The attackers, some dressed in army uniforms, were stopped short of the compound's walls by guards and massive security barriers, but civilians waiting in line for visas outside the embassy were among the casualties. Three police officers and seven civilians were injured, including children in a residential compound across the street from the embassy, home to many Westerners.

Susan Elbaneh, 18, a U.S. citizen from Lackawanna, N.Y., who was recently wed in Yemen in an arranged marriage, was killed along with her Yemeni husband as they stood outside the embassy, family members said Wednesday. They were apparently there to do paperwork for the husband's move to the U.S. when the attackers struck, said Elbaneh's brother, Ahmed.

AP

In this photo released by Yemen News Agency, SABA, smokes raise from the US Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008 after a car bomb targeting the Embassy hit the front gate of the compound, causing unspecified casualties, a U.S. spokesman said.

Elbaneh's family was gathering at her father Ali's house Wednesday afternoon.

Two FBI agents who arrived to speak with family members at the home would not comment beyond saying they were there to talk to the family.

Relatives acknowledged, however, that Susan Elbaneh is related to Jaber Elbaneh, who is in custody in Yemen and faces U.S. charges of providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization. They stressed that had nothing to do with Susan, saying she was an innocent victim of Wednesday's attack.

Elbaneh, a high school senior, was among eight children in the family, which her brother described as "huge and close-knit." Ahmed Elbaneh said she planned to return to New York with her new husband, finish school and become a nurse.

She had been in Yemen for a month for the marriage on Aug. 25.

"She was excited. We threw her a shower. It wasn't like we were worried about anything. Tragedies happen. They are innocent victims in all of this," Ahmed Elbaneh said.

President George W. Bush called the attack "a reminder that we are at war with extremists who will murder innocent people to achieve their ideological objectives."

The U.S. counts Yemen as an ally in the war on terrorism. But American officials have long been frustrated over what is seen as a "revolving door" policy toward al-Qaida militants by President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government.

Yemen has let some convicted militants go free after promising to refrain from violence.

In 2006, a group of 23 militants escaped from a high-security prison, including 10 figures convicted in al-Qaida's 2000 bombing of the USS Cole destroyer in Aden harbor. There were widespread reports of security officials' collusion in the escape, and experts say Yemen's security and intelligence services are riddled with militant sympathizers.

State control is weak in the impoverished country—the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden—tribes are strong and many mountainous rural areas are lawless, giving ample room for militant training camps.

In separate statements, the U.N. Security Council and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attacks and called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

US: 7 soldiers die in chopper crash in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—An American Chinook helicopter crashed early Thursday as it was landing in southern Iraq, killing seven U.S. soldiers, the military said.

The CH-47 Chinook was landing after midnight about 60 miles west of Basra at the time of the crash, the U.S. statement said.

A spokesman for the Multi-National Force-Iraq confirmed to The Associated Press that the helicopter had crashed. He said five had died, and the bodies of two soldiers who had originally been missing were found.

The spokesman said hostile fire was not suspected.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to provide details.

The chopper was a part of an aerial convoy flying from Kuwait to the U.S. military base at Balad just north of Baghdad. The Chinook, the Army's workhorse, is designed to transport troops and supplies to combat and other regions.

The statement said the incident was under investigation.

Separately, a U.S. soldier died of non-combat-related causes on Wednesday, and an investigation into the cause of death was under way, the military said.

On Wednesday, gunmen killed a Sunni assistant to the governor of one of Iraq's most volatile provinces, the latest in a series of attacks that have marred the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in Iraq.

Shamil Younis, an engineer who handled technical affairs for Gov. Duraid Kashmola, was killed in a drive-by shooting as he was walking home after finishing prayers at a nearby mosque in Mosul, police said. The attack occurred shortly after iftar, the meal that breaks the sunrise-to-sunset fast during Ramadan.

The governor, also a Sunni, confirmed the slaying and promised an investigation. He called it "a brutal crime against this innocent, good man."

Kashmola, who is the governor of Ninevah province, of which Mosul is the capital, himself survived an apparent assassination attempt this summer.

The June 26 car bombing struck near the site where Kashmola was inspecting damage from an earlier explosion that police believed was meant to lure him to the market area in Mosul. At least 18 people were killed in the attack.

Israel FM declares victory in Kadima primary election

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's foreign minister won a narrow victory early Thursday to be head of the country's governing party, giving her the chance to be the nation's first female leader in 34 years and sending a message that peace talks with the Palestinians could likely continue.

Tzipi Livni, 50, won by a margin of 431 votes—a 1.1 percentage point—in the Kadima Party primary elections, besting former defense minister and military chief Shaul Mofaz.

Livni will replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as head of Kadima. Olmert, the target of a career-ending corruption probe, promised to step down as soon as a new Kadima leader was chosen.

"The national responsibility (bestowed) by the public brings me to approach this job with great awe," Livni said shortly after officials results were announced. She now gets a chance to set up Israel's next government.

The victory declaration came after official results showed Livni taking the race by a far narrower victory than polls had predicted. She barely edged out Mofaz. Israeli media reported that Mofaz called Livni to congratulate her, and rejected a legal adviser's proposal that he appeal the results.

Three TV exit polls released just before the voting ended Wednesday night had showed a clear victory for Livni over Mofaz, about 47 percent to 37 percent, leading to premature celebrations.

Tensions ease but shortages rampant in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—The soldiers shoved their way to the front of the winding line waiting to get cash at the bank. But this time was different: The military men were jeered, told "things have changed," and were forced to take a place at the back.

Already, Zimbabweans say, they can feel change.

President Robert Mugabe signed a power-sharing deal Monday with his bitter opposition rival, an accord that promises to return democracy to a weary nation beaten up and beaten down by political violence and economic collapse.

While the signing ceremony was going on, a group of militant Mugabe party supporters barged into a downtown supermarket and demanded a new delivery of scarce sugar. Before, they would have got what they wanted.

Instead, witnesses said the supermarket manager told the gang - including feared veterans of the war that swept Mugabe to power at independence in 1980 - that they could only have two, 2-kilogram (4.4 pound) bags each and that they had to wait in line with everyone else.

When they balked, he called police, who got them to leave.

Witnesses said an officer was overheard saying: "Forget it. Everyone has the same allocation now."

Just the day before, the police probably would have refused to confront the militants. But the witnesses still did not want to be named, fearing retaliation from the war veterans.

Zimbabweans, wary but hopeful, were trying this week to figure out the intricacies of the deal that has the country's ruler for 28 years, President Robert Mugabe, relinquishing some power to bitter rival Morgan Tsvangirai.

Mugabe, 84, went from being praised as a liberator who freed the former British colony from minority white rule to being vilified as an autocrat.

Greek ship with 25 crew hijacked near Somalia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Armed pirates hijacked a Greek ship with 25 crew members off Somalia on Thursday, authorities said, bringing to 55 the number of reported attacks in the lawless sea lane of the African region.

The bulk carrier was headed to Kenya when it was attacked off the eastern coast of Somalia, the 13th ship to be seized in African waters in the past two months, according to Noel Choong of the International Maritime Bureau.

He said the latest incident showed that Somali pirates, who were previously operating in the northern coast in the Gulf of Aden, were now beginning to expand and attacking ships in the east.

A multinational naval force patrolling the area has been informed, and the ships have been warned to stay clear from Somalia's coast, he said.

"Pirates are beginning to attack now in the eastern coast of Somalia. We advise ships to stay at least 250 miles from the coast and even then, they must maintain a strict watch," Choong said.

The latest incident brings to 55 the number of attacks in Somalia this year, most of which occurred in the Gulf of Aden. The surge if attacks has prompted the U.S. Naval Central Command to establish a security corridor patrolled by an international coalition of warships.

The Gulf of Aden, which connects the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, is one of the world's busiest waterways with some 20,000 ships passing through it each year.

Somalia has not had a functioning government since 1991. Pirates there are often trained fighters, many of them dressed in military fatigues and typically armed with automatic weapons, anti-tank rocket launchers and grenades.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cat survives 70-mile trip under owner's truck

GILBERT, Ariz. (AP)—A cat survived a 2 1/2-hour trip on a spare tire under her owner's truck. Gil Smith recently drove from his Gilbert home 70 miles away for a business meeting in Kearny. When he got out of the truck, he heard a cat in distress and realized it was his. Smith said the cat, Bella, was hysterical, shaky and tired, but was smart enough to know not to jump off the tire as the truck was moving. Smith and his wife have adopted three indoor cats, three goats and three chickens. But Smith said Bella, an outdoor cat the couple adopted years ago, has a special place in his wife's heart. Smith said he canceled his meeting with a state Department of Economic Security official who had driven 50 miles to get to Kearny so he could get Bella home. It was either that, or, he jokes, get a divorce.

Police: Man says he grew pot in a cost-saving move

TYLER, Texas (AP)—A Tyler man accused of growing marijuana in an alleged cost-saving move is jailed on felony possession charges. Bond is $15,000 for 55-year-old John Daniel Miller III, who remained in the Smith County Jail late Tuesday. Sheriff's Sgt. Randal Hiller declined to release information on Miller, including whether he has an attorney following Monday's arrest. Sheriff's Sgt. Randy Meadows told the Tyler Morning-Telegraph that a tip led officers to some rural property, where several marijuana plants—encircled by old tires—lined the driveway. Deputies confiscated more than 70 plants worth about $100,000. Meadows said Miller told deputies he knew they were coming "sooner or later" and he was cultivating his own marijuana because the cost of buying the illegal substance had gone up.

Man accused of stealing Va. teen's dog

MANASSAS, Va. (AP)—Prince William County police said a man accused of stealing a dog from a 15-year-old boy has been charged with robbery. Police said the boy was walking his dog Sunday just before 11 p.m. when the man ordered the boy to give him everything he had in his pockets. When the boy told the man he didn't have anything, the man took his dog. Police say they found a 20-year-old man near the scene and located the boy's dog. The man was charged with robbery and is being held without bond.

Teen trying to burn spiders sets home on fire

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Fire investigators have come up with an unusual cause of a blaze that damaged a home in Reno—spider killing. Reno Fire Battalion Chief Rick Kajans said a teenager was using fire to try to kill spiders Sunday afternoon when he accidentally set a fence on fire that then also burned part of his home on Neil Road. The fire burned through a wall and damaged a kitchen ceiling before firefighters put it out. Kajans said he doubts the 17-year-old boy will be charged with any crime because the fire is being ruled accidental.

German police seize teens' motorized office chair

BERLIN (AP)—German police have confiscated what may be the world's fastest office chair. Police say officers happened on the contraption—the work of two inventive 17-year-olds—in the western town of Gross-Zimmern on Saturday. The pair had added a lawnmower engine, bicycle brakes and a metal frame to the revolving chair—making into a go-kart-like vehicle. Police said in a statement Monday the inventors insisted they had only tested it over a few meters, but witnesses reported seeing it on several streets. They are being investigated over a variety of possible offenses, including defying insurance regulations, driving without a license and violating registration requirements. Police did not say what top speed the chair could reach.

Man's ear chewed off after dispute with neighbor

OGDEN, Utah (AP)—Two Ogden neighbors got into a fight after a minor league baseball game that ended with one them biting off a part of the other's ear. The two men had returned home from the Ogden Raptors baseball game late Wednesday when police said one man apparently offended the other with a comment. Ogden Police Lt. Scott Sangberg said the offended man responded by striking the other in the face several times and then clamping down on his ear with his teeth and pulling back with enough force to rip off a part of the ear. The man was booked into the Weber County Jail and is facing charges of assault causing mayhem, assault of an officer, possession of marijuana, intoxication and resisting arrest, Sangberg said.

Typo fixers get probation for damaging rare sign

PHOENIX (AP)—When it comes to marking up historic signs, good grammar is a bad defense.

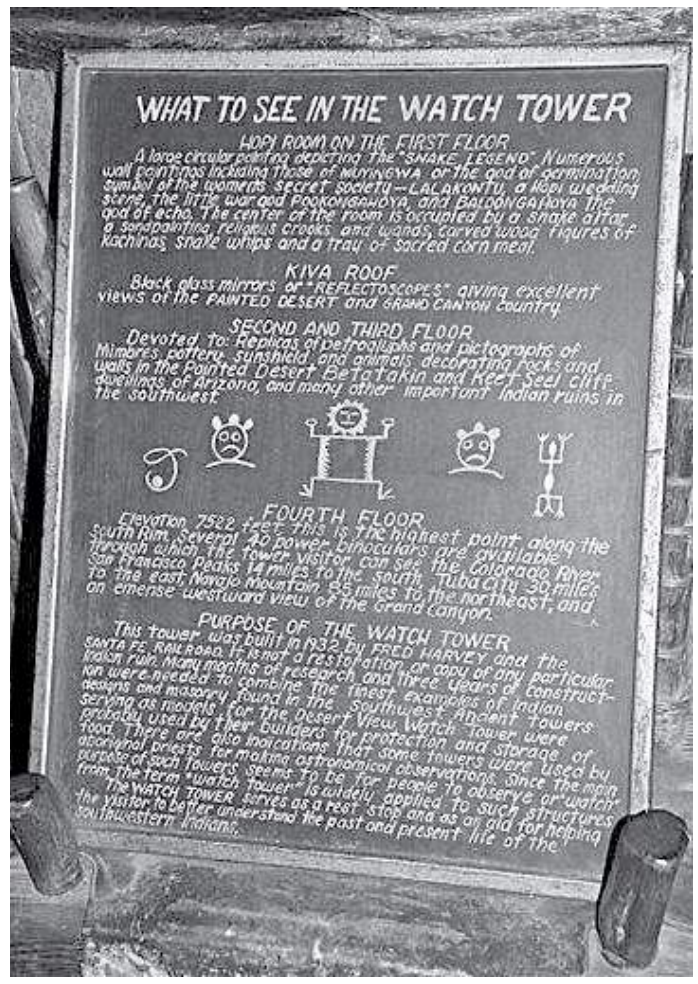
Two self-styled vigilantes against typos who defaced a more than 60-year-old, hand-painted sign at Grand Canyon National Park were sentenced to probation and banned from national parks for a year.

Jeff Deck and Benjamin Herson pleaded guilty Aug. 11 for the damage done March 28 at the park's Desert View Watchtower. The sign was made by Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, the architect who designed the rustic 1930s watchtower and other Grand Canyon-area landmarks.

Deck and Herson, both 28, toured the United States this spring, wiping out errors on government and private signs. They were interviewed by NPR and the Chicago Tribune, which called them "a pair of Kerouacs armed with Sharpies and erasers and righteous indignation."

An affidavit by National Park Service agent Christopher A. Smith said investigators learned of the vandalism from an Internet site operated by Deck on behalf of the Typo Eradication Advancement League, or TEAL.

Authorities said a diary written by Deck reported that while visiting the watchtower, he and Herson "discovered a hand-rendered sign inside that, I regret to report, contained a few errors."


WHAT TO SEE IN THE WATCH TOWER
HOPI ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR
KIVA ROOF
SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR
FOURTH FLOOR
PURPOSE OF THE WATCH TOWER

AP

Corrections were made March 28, 2008, including an added comma and apostrophe, in the first paragraph of a rare, hand-painted sign in the South Rim of the Grand Canyon are seen in this undated photo provided by Grand Canyon National Park.

The fiberboard sign has yellow lettering with a black background. Deck wrote that they used a marker to cover an erroneous apostrophe, put the apostrophe in its proper place with white-out and added a comma.

The misspelled word "emense" was not fixed, Deck wrote, because "I was reluctant to disfigure the sign any further. ... Still, I think I shall be haunted by that perversity, emense, in my train-whistle-blighted dreams tonight."

Deck, of Somerville, Mass., and Herson, of Virginia Beach, Va., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to vandalize government property.

They were sentenced to a year's probation, during which they cannot enter any national park or modify any public signs. They were also ordered to pay $3,035 to repair the watchtower sign.

The TEAL Web site now has only this message—"Statement on the signage of our National Parks and public lands to come"—without a period.

Dead man's visit to doctor scuttles insurance scam

LONDON (AP)—As a dead man, Ahmad Akhtary shouldn't have needed a doctor's appointment.

Akhtary's checkup, six months after he allegedly died in Afghanistan, scuttled his ex-wife's attempt to collect 300,000 pounds (US$550,000) on a life insurance policy.

At a court hearing last week in Gloucester, a judge sentenced 34-year-old Akhtary to 60 hours of community service and his former wife, Anne Akhtary, to 40 hours of community service but suspended prison sentences of nine months each. Anne Akhtary, 43, admitted trying to claim the payout from the Norwich Union insurance company by using a forged death certificate from Afghanistan claiming that her husband had died of brain trauma in an accident.

Within weeks, however, Norwich Union investigators were tipped off about the doctor's appointment.

"They were told that Mr. Akhtary's GP had seen him at his practice and he had attended hospital so it was not the most sophisticated way of going about making a false claim," said prosecutor James Cranfield.

Akhtary had continued to live openly in Gloucester after his supposed death, working and paying taxes, Cranfield said.

Passing sentence on Friday, Judge Mark Horton said fake insurance claims were serious but that the couple had been less than sophisticated in their attempt and that no money had been lost.

Fame finds 4-eared feline thanks to Internet photo

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. (AP)—The owners of Yoda—a cat with four ears—could use a couple extra hands to answer their telephones.

Ted and Valerie Rock said they've been inundated with television offers and media inquiries since their son posted a photo of their smoke-colored cat on a Web site. That turned the four-eared feline from a suburban animal oddity into an instant Internet celebrity.

The Rocks, from the Chicago suburb of Downers Grove, have fielded calls from "Good Morning America," "Fox News" and "The Tyra Banks Show." The cat's photo has graced the London Guardian and a British tabloid. The Daily Mail said if Batman had a cat, it would be Yoda.

"It's amazing," Ted Rock said. "For the past few days, our phone has just been ringing off the hook."

AP

In this undated photo provided by Glenn Olsen Photography, Valerie Rock poses with her cat Yoda.

Yoda's extra ears give him a hint of a devilish appearance. The Rocks said they found him in 2006 while watching a Chicago Bears game at a Blue Island bar.

Some in the bar were passing the then-eight-week old kitten around, making fun of his extra set of ears, mocking his appearance and calling him names such as "Devil Cat" and "Beelzebub."

It wasn't quite love at first sight, but the Rocks felt sorry for the cat and offered to adopt the kitten from the bar's owner, who kept the animal caged atop the bar for his customers' amusement.

Forgotten bifocals leads to $3 million jackpot

ROANOKE, Ind. (AP)—A man's forgotten bifocals led to a $3 million lottery jackpot. Bobby Guffey usually plays the same combination of numbers representing the birthdays of his five children. But he left his glasses at home when he bought the winning ticket Aug. 6, accidentally entering the last number as 48 instead of 46.

The Hoosier Lotto ticket ended up being worth $3 million. "My wife says it pays to be blind," Guffey said Thursday after he accepted his winnings at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis.

Guffey, who's from the northeastern Indiana town of Roanoke, said he didn't realize he'd used the wrong number combination until he had left the Huntington service station where he bought it.

He went back inside to buy a ticket with his usual numbers and that ticket won him $1,000 to go along with the jackpot.

Guffey said he has been playing the Hoosier Lotto since it started in 1989. He said he's won about $5,000 on various tickets over the years.

His wife, Janell, said they are going to pay off their house, take a cruise to Hawaii next year and set up a trust fund for their five children and 10 grandchildren.

"Christmas will be a lot nicer," she said.

Science & Technology

Survey: Nearly every kid is a video gamer

CHICAGO (AP)—Katherine Graden doesn't really like shoot-'em-up video games. She prefers games on her Wii system that test her fitness and agility—the ones her guy friends tease are her "sissy games."

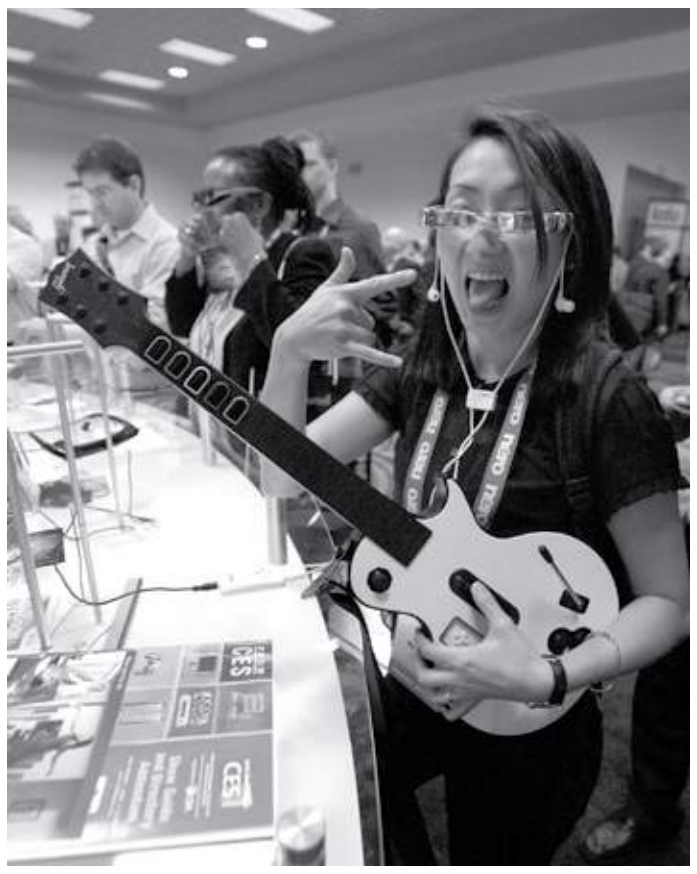
"I'm like, 'Fine! Go play your violent games. I'll stick with mine,'" the high school freshman from Chicago says, chuckling.

It's a common scenario, according to a new national survey from the Pew Internet & American Life Project that illustrates just how ingrained games have become in youth culture.

The survey found that while young Americans don't necessarily play the same thing, nearly all of them—girls included—play video games of one kind or another.

And they don't just play by themselves. Nearly two-thirds play video games to socialize face-to-face with friends and family, while just over a quarter said they play with Internet friends.

"It shows that gamers are social people," says Amanda Lenhart, a senior researcher at Pew who led the report on the survey. "They communicate just as much. They spend time face-to-face, just as much as other kids. They e-mail and text."



AP

In this Jan. 9, 2008 file photo, Judy Mellett of Toronto poses while playing a video game through Myvu's personal media viewer at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

The survey, released Tuesday, combined the telephone responses from a nationally representative sample of 1,102 young people, ages 12 to 17, and their parents. Performed from November 2007 through February of this year, and partly funded by the MacArthur Foundation, it had a margin of error of three percentage points.

Among other things, the survey found that:

■ Ninety-seven percent of young respondents play video games. That's 99 percent of boys and 94 percent of girls, with little difference in the percentages among various racial and ethnic groups and incomes. In fact, 7 percent of those surveyed said they didn't have a computer at home, but did have a game console, such as Sony Corp.'s PlayStation, Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox or Nintendo Co.'s Wii.

■ They play often. When surveyed, half of the respondents said they had played a video game the previous day.

■ Their games of choice are as diverse as their tastes in music or TV. Eighty percent of respondents play five or more different game genres, with racing, puzzles, sports and action the most common. Favorites were "Guitar Hero," "Halo 3," "Madden NFL," solitaire and "Dance Dance Revolution."

■ Young people are routinely able to get their hands on games that are rated "M" (for mature) or "AO" (adults only). Three-quarters of parents who were surveyed said they "always" or "sometimes" check the ratings on their kids' games. And yet, half of boys who were questioned listed a game with an "M" or "AO" rating as one of their favorites, compared with 14 percent of girls.

Regardless, Pew researchers said they want to steer clear of depicting video games as "good" or "bad," says Joseph Kahne, a study co-author and dean of the education school at Mills College in California.

He noted, for instance, that even games with violent content, such as "Halo," provided "more than average opportunities for players to help one another."

Kahne also looked at games' effect on civic engagement, anything from political involvement to raising money for charity. He found that those who spent the most time playing video games weren't any less likely to be involved in their communities.

The survey did, however, find that those who played games in face-to-face social settings were more likely to say they were committed to civic participation.

Mimi Ito, an anthropologist who studies the use of new media, said more research is needed to explain this phenomenon. But she speculates the ties that gamers make with "real-life local friends" stimulate civic engagement.

"Gaming is the reason to get together—but they're probably talking about other things," says Ito, who's based at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center of Communication.

For this and other reasons, Ito cautioned parents against negative stereotypes about video games.

How young people play a game, she says, is as important as what they play.

To that end, Jesse Schell, a professor of entertainment technology at Carnegie Mellon University, hoped the report would encourage parents to learn more about the video games their children play.

"If more parents would take the time to play the same things their children are playing—or even better, play with them—it would benefit both parents and children," says Schell, who teaches video game design.

About a third of parents who were surveyed said they play video games with their children some or all of the time. Most of those parents are younger than 40, part of a generation that grew up playing video games themselves.

Kimberly Coleman, a 35-year-old mom and blogger in New York City, was a fan of "Pac-Man" and "Donkey Kong" as a kid. She now plays video games with her 4-year-old son, but only those with physical activity, such as Wii Sports, or an educational component.

"Growing up with video games made me more hesitant to have a gaming system in our home," says Coleman, who doesn't want her kids to become "couch potatoes."

That's why Graden, back in Chicago, likes her Wii Fit. She's also started playing "Guitar Hero" with her buddies, though, though she's a little miffed it has only a few girl characters. "They dress, like, really sleazy," she says. "It's sort of weird."

Graden also plays the Wii with her mom, but only after she hits the books and practices her French horn.

"For me," she says, "it's always schoolwork first."

First Google-powered phone to be unveiled this Sept. 23

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—T-Mobile plans to show off the first wireless phone powered by Google Inc.'s much-anticipated Android software system at a Sept. 23 news conference.

Although T-Mobile intends to demonstrate the phone for reporters and analysts invited to next week's event in New York, the handset isn't expected to be available in stores until next month.

More specifics about the phone's shipping date and pricing are still to come. T-Mobile is expected to subsidize part of the phone's cost for buyers who agree to subscribe to the carrier's mobile service.

The phone, made by HTC, has generated a big buzz because it will be the first to use Google's Android software, which is supposed to make it easier and more enticing to surf the Internet on a handset.

Google is counting on the software, announced last November, to help sell more advertising by encouraging more people to use its Internet search engine and other services while they are away from the office or home.

T-Mobile's phone will face stiff competition from Apple Inc.'s iPhone, which is Google's largest source of mobile traffic so far, and Research In Motion Ltd.'s BlackBerry. If Google realizes its ambitions, hundreds of different mobile devices will run on the Android system.

Leica grabs bragging rights with 'fastest' lens

NEW YORK (AP)—Before camera manufacturers one-upped each other with the number of megapixels, they one-upped each other with the zoom range of their lenses. And before that, in the 1960s, the "speed" of the lens, its ability to gather light, was the big selling point.

Now, Leica Camera AG, a prestigious but small German maker of high-end cameras and lenses, is going for the speed crown again, making the world's "fastest" lens for still cameras.

This week, Leica said it has created a new version of its Noctilux lens with an aperture number of 0.95, which in the inverted math of optics means it gathers 11 percent more light than the old version, which had an aperture of 1.

A lens that gathers more light performs better in poor lighting conditions, but an increase of 11 percent is hardly noticeable, so the difference between the old and new lenses is mostly in bragging rights. (Leica can't claim the fastest-ever crown, however: Japan's Canon Inc. also made a lens with an aperture of 0.95 for a few years in the '60s, at the height of the lens-speed craze.)

However, either the previous or the new Leica Noctilux lens is substantially faster than the zoom lenses that come with regular digital cameras. They often have an aperture number of 3.5, which means they gather just 7 percent as much light as the new Noctilux.

To gather more light, a lens needs to have a bigger glass surface, and super-speed lenses like the Noctilux are at the limit of practicality. The lens weighs 1 pound, 6 ounces, and dwarfs the Leica cameras it mounts on. It's focused manually and doesn't zoom, but has a fixed focal length of 50 millimeters.

Stefan Daniel, a product manager at Leica, said he expects the lens to cost $10,000 when it goes on sale in December.

The company had been selling the older Noctiluxes at a similar price, which held back many would-be buyers. They have a word for their condition: "Noctilust."

In this image provided by Leica Camera AG, the new Leica Noctilux 50mm/f0.95 lens is shown attached to an M8.2 camera body.

AP

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: I saw the item about Gmail security. If I don't turn on this encryption in my desktop e-mail program, can I expose my password at wireless hot spots?

A: That's a real risk that you can avoid with a change in your e-mail settings. But many Internet providers don't offer the SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) encryption that solves this problem, and many e-mail programs hide this option from users.

First, see if your provider offers SSL logins. You may see this listed on its tech-support pages, or you may need to call for help. If your provider does offer them, the following instructions apply:

In Microsoft's Outlook 2007, go to its Tools menu, select Account Settings and choose your account. Click the Change button, click the More Settings button and then click the Advanced tab. There, select SSL from the "Use the following type of encrypted connection" drop-down menu. (The procedure is about the same in earlier Outlook releases, but you'd begin at the Tools menu's E-mail Accounts item.)

In Microsoft's Outlook Express or its Windows Vista replacement, Windows Mail, go to the Tools menu, select Accounts (in OE, click the Mail tab first), choose yours and click Properties. In the Properties window, click the Advanced tab, then click the "This server requires a secure connection (SSL)" checkboxes under the outgoing and incoming e-mail headings.

In Mozilla Thunderbird, go to the Tools menu and select Account Settings. In that window, choose your account, click the Server Settings heading, and click the SSL button. Then pick your outgoing mail server in the Account Settings window, click Edit and click the SSL button.

In Apple's Mail, go to the Mail menu, choose Preferences and click the Preferences window's Accounts tab. There, choose your account, click the Advanced tab and click the Use SSL checkbox.

Life & Style

New stamp honors actress Bette Davis

WASHINGTON (AP)—"She did it the hard way."

That's how Bette Davis wanted to be remembered, and a new U.S. postage stamp honoring her does that iron-willed image justice.

The 42-cent commemorative stamp, being released Thursday in Boston, features a portrait of Davis as she appeared in the 1950 film "All About Eve," in which she played Margo Channing, an aging stage actress battling to save her career as a younger woman schemes to replace her.

In one scene author Joseph Mankiewicz' stage directions for Margo read: "the steel begins to flash," as Davis, her blue eyes glaring, responds to her lover's description of Eve as a "stage-struck kid."

"Stage-struck kid ... She's a young lady—of qualities. And I'll have you know I'm fed up with both the young lady and her qualities! Studying me as if—as if I were a play or a set of blueprints! How I walk, talk, think, eat, sleep!"

Davis was nominated for an Academy Award for that performance.

Indeed, she collected 10 nominations, winning in 1935 for "Dangerous" and in 1938 for "Jezebel," and was nominated every year from 1938 to 1942.

AP

This undated handout photo provided by the U.S. Postal Service shows the 42-cent commemorative postage stamp honoring screen legend Bette Davis featuring a portrait as she appeared in the 1950 film "All About Eve."

Taking advantage of her age, she played a demented former child star in 1962's "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane," scoring another Oscar nomination.

Davis chose "She did it the hard way" for an epitaph because she viewed a lot of her life as difficult but rewarding.

"It isn't that she was complaining, but that she had persevered ... to achieve great things and satisfying things even though it wasn't easy for her," explained her son, Michael Merrill, in a telephone interview.

People always think that life is easy for stars, he said, "but when you live with one, you realize it's not."

"She could be intimidating," Merrill said. But "there was a sharing there. She was mom. She really filled that role well, she was very much a mother."

"She would have been tremendously thrilled" to be honored with a postage stamp, he added.

Throughout her career the intensity of Davis' eyes brought her characters to life, and a new generation was introduced to her in 1981 when Kim Carnes sang the hit song "Bette Davis Eyes," including the lyric "She'll tease you, She'll unease you, Just to please you, She's got Bette Davis eyes."

Born Ruth Elizabeth Davis 100 years ago in Lowell, Mass., Davis went into acting early and won acclaim playing characters many consider tough and unsympathetic. She died in France in 1989.

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
2. ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames***, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.
3. ***Goodnight Bush,*** by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.
4. ***sTORI Telling***, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The old-school 90210 star tells all.
5. ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.
6. ***The Obama Nation***, by Jerome R. Corsi (Threshold Editions: $28) The reasons against an Obama presidency and why he should be defeated.
7. ***The 4-Hour Workweek***, by Timothy Ferriss (Crown: $19.95) A manifesto for the mobile lifestyle and living life on your own terms.
8. ***Mother on Fire***, by Sandra Tsing Loh (Crown: $23) A humorist's look at the state of schools, society and parenting in dysfunctional L.A.
9. ***Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea***, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.
10. ***i before e (except after c)***, by Judy Parkinson (Reader's Digest: $14.95) All those rhymes and mnemonics that help us remember things.

Fiction

1. ***Breaking Dawn***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality as a vampire.
2. ***Silks***, by Dick Francis and Felix Francis (Putnam: $25.95) A lawyer defends a fellow jockey accused of murdering one of their own at a London racetrack.
3. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.
4. ***Devil Bones***, by Kathy Reichs (Scribner: $25.95) A forensic anthropologist encounters voodoo and devil worship in her quest to identify two teenage victims.
5. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle in this twist on Hamlet.
6. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer's correspondence with an island's inhabitants in the aftermath of the German occupation.
7. ***The Little Book***, by Selden Edwards (Dutton: $25.95) An exiled banking heir time travels from 1980s San Francisco to late 18th century Vienna.
8. ***The Host***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.
9. ***Moscow Rules***, by Daniel Silva (Putnam: $26.95) The death of a journalist leads Gabriel Allon to a Russian arms dealer.
10. ***Artemis Fowl: The Time Paradox***, by Eoin Colfer (Hyperion: $17.99) Artemis must travel back in time to find a cure for his dying mother.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following foreign national workers/employees' of **UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION (U.I.C.)** are hereby notified to come in and pick up your **"Transfer Order"** on/or before **September 26, 2008** at the Department of Labor, Enforcement Section, 2nd floor, Afetnas building, San Antonio, Saipan. Your deadline to register with the Division of Employment Services ("Employment Services") for transfer purposes will be no later than **October 6, 2008**. This notice will act as proof of service on your behalf in this case matter (C.A.C. No.08-218-07). Should you have any question please contact Tel. No.236-0967 for assistance.

Name of employee:	Entry Permit No.:
Abelinde, Leonardo F.	129181
Agpalo, Ruben M.	171509
Akkasriworn, Cheeraporn	113059
Alegre, Rogelio A.	147024
Andaya, Tessie P.	194895
Artiam, Panna	113060
Aznar, Biena M.	128795
Badilles, Ronnie P.	120900
Bai, Wei Hong	175186
Baloca, Manuel M.	113055
Boonkul, Bussaba	108460
Cai, Shaozhi	194632
Cai, Zhongxia	175173
Calumba, Danilo A.	157603
Cao, Ping	282017
Cao, Yeping	143095
Cao, Yongmei	163474
Catap, Ronaldo P.	109998
Chaisungnoen, Prangthong	108424
Chamang, Samorn	113545
Chamnanprom, Kesorn	113058
Che, Ganghui	285558
Chen, Liufen	136203
Chen, Lixiu	170021
Chen, Bihua	194554
Chen, Yan	289280
Chen, Xiufen	281229
Cheng, Shaoping	291422
Claridades, Roberto J.	107471
Cruz, Ma. Victoria R.	144944
Dai, Lixiu	289302
Dai, Weifeng	290136
Dela Cruz, Rosalinda T.	143341
Dong, Xiaorong	170207
Dong, Qiaozan	297161
Esturas, Domingo B.	113994
Fai, Chunyan	197104
Fan, Haiyan	157789
Feng, Chuanying	197414
Gan, Xiulan	106996
Gao, Haiyan	284661
Gong, Jinfang	181115
Gu, Guohua	146042
Gu, Liping	138399
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Guo, Yongtao	132639
Guo, Meiyan	170217
He, Weixia	107183
He, Quanzhen	154436
He, Shouxin	66498
He, Xiurong	172943
He, Zhiying	176386
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Jankhong, Klai	108423
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Kaenjuan, Charintondech	155266
Kang, Cheng Gen	154399
Khamsum, Kai	176256
Khamchompoo, Chawee	121641
Khunsri, Watthana	113101
Lan, Yuanmei	192256
Lang, Rongmei	159157
Lang, Xuefen	186234
Legacion, Edwin S.F.	148321
Li, Junyu	136172
Li, Juan	197393
Li, Yaqin	161253
Li, Mei	106975
Li, Qingxiu	137089
Li, Zhiqiu	137021
Li, Zhijun	141438
Li, Dongchun	139373
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Liu, Yanfang	173052
Liu, Cailan	291381
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Long, Xiaohong	181431
Lou, Chunying	161298
Lu, Baoying	145970
Luo, Aimei	287956
Lou, Jinjin	286708
Mao, Chongying	161319
Masuebchat, Samriang	109618
Mayura, Miss Siriwan	109615
Mendoza, Peter James R.	286185
Pan, Guizhen	143119

Name of employee:	Entry Permit No.:
Patthong, Jariyaporn	108206
Peredo, Ronalie P.	110352
Phonphim, Serirat	166501
Phutom, Thongdaeng	113534
Prathummet, Thongsee	113533
Qian, Yuan	161309
Qian, Yajun	132376
Qu, Yongli	154238
Ranoco, Editha C.	123926
Ruiz, Rommel B.	109393
Samart, Niyom	108454
Samphao, Janphen	113531
Shan, Chengjing	287513
Shen, Jiezhi	156611
Shen, Li	139379
Shen, Yuanneng	287300
Sheng, Xian	172354
Shi, Longzhu	146048
Song, Mingqiao	281203
Su, Shixia	289301
Suepsuan, Suphaporn	113554
Suksing, Ratsamorn	113529
Sun, Chunan	289308
Sun, Hongchun	190502
Sun, Weimin	289308
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Taberdo, Remedios B.	159956
Tan, Kelan	188728
Tang, Chunyue	157759
Tu, Xiuhua	291401
Wan, Ninghong	173777
Wang, Guihua	123685
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Wang, Huiling	289279
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Wu, Lice	155059
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Wu, Weiping	159737
Wu, Kairong	155737
Wu, Yanyu	193307
Wu, Yan	296971
Wu, Juxiang	287896
Xia, Yinguan	193251
Xie, Hongjuan	198223
Xie, Lingfang	198087
Xiong, Yan	290937
Xu, Feifei	296968
Xu, Xiaohong	112027
Xu, Xiaoli	339375
Xu, Yanhong	203166
Xu, Youping	202310
Xu, Guanyan	289291
Xu, Xiuqin	297994
Yang, Shujuan	154475
Yang, Fen	173014
Yang, Yongguang	170028
Yang, Lihua	286689
Yang, Yuchuan	180301
Yang, Xiaohong	180421
Yang, Weiwei	284368
Yang, Yubing	191550
Yang, Yanxia	128304
Yang, Zhicong	191550
Yao, Miaohua	208608
Yao, Donghua	184854
Ye, Lifeng	162404
Yin, Hongxia	302625
Zhang, Jingbo	140530
Zhang, Ping	110810
Zhang, Lifang	128298
Zhang, Minfang	154438
Zhang, Luo	150441
Zhang, Yanmei	289282
Zhang, Weilin	281084
Zhang, Jinhong	289310
Zhang, Xiaoyan	197196
Zhang, Xiangfen	161275
Zhao, Chunfeng	291410
Zhao, Hailing	154459
Zheng, Yanfang	139471
Zheng, Zhizhong	132286
Zhong, Limei	132845
Zhong, Meiping	156532
Zhong, Xiaolan	202240
Zhong, Xingmin	176410
Zhou, Chunli	130200
Zhou, Hong	186531
Zhou, Xifen	188069
Zhou, Qinglan	297790
Zhou, Xuechao	299395
Zhou, Xiujuan	202226
Zhu, Yingxue	136090
Zhu, Rongdi	175056
Zhu, Wei	174963
Zhu, Yuezhen	164567
Zhu, Liju	201084
Zhu, Yueying	282021
Zhu, Yucui	291420
Zhu, Yuhua	291382
Zhu, Meifang	176383
Zong, Shifang	157955
Zhuang, Yiling	189263

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Dated this 18th day of September 2008.

/s/ Barry A. Hirshbien
Director of Labor

5 myths about the power of Oprah

By KATHLEEN ROONEY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

AP

In this Jan 30, 2008 file photo released by Harpo Productions shows Oprah Winfrey introducing Eckhart Tolle's "A New Earth" during her show in Chicago.

"The Oprah Winfrey Show" airs in more than 140 countries, but the woman Time magazine proclaimed The Queen of All Media has only thrown her support to a presidential candidate in one: the United States. In a move unprecedented in her show's 22-year history, Winfrey announced last fall that she was endorsing Democrat Barack Obama's bid for the presidency. In September 2007, she hosted Stevie Wonder, Cindy Crawford and Chris Rock, among others, at a fund-raiser at her estate near Santa Barbara, Calif., that brought in more than $3 million for the Illinois senator. She hit the campaign trail to rally supporters for Obama in the early primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

And this month, in response to a report that she was refusing requests from her own staff to interview Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin on her show, Winfrey explained in a statement that, even though she was taking her first public stance in support of a candidate, she had decided not to have any specific candidate appear on her program. "I agree that Sarah Palin would be a fantastic interview, and I would love to have her on after the campaign is over," she said. So no couch-jumping for Palin, or Obama, for that matter, until after Nov. 4.

But what are they missing out on? What does an endorsement from the host of the highest-rated talk show in the history of television mean, anyway?

Winfrey's viewers are sheep/robots who think and do whatever she tells them to.

Aside from Robyn Okrant, keeper of the blog Living Oprah, who is spending a year doing every single thing that Winfrey commands, most viewers are more selective about how much influence they let the talk-show host have over their lives. Although her famous book club made unexpected hits of such little known titles as Wally Lamb's "She's Come Undone"—which was published in 1992 but rocketed to the top of the bestseller lists after being featured on her show in January 1997—as well as such classics as the 130-year-old "Anna Karenina," her boosterism wasn't enough to make 2005 the summer of Faulkner. Her big-screen turn with the three-hour film adaptation of Toni Morrison's "Beloved" was a relative flop at the box office. And many viewers have expressed ambivalence about Winfrey's endorsement of Obama. Most recently, numerous fans have taken to the message board on Oprah.com to voice their irritation at Winfrey's no-Palin ruling. "As someone who HAD enjoyed everything Oprah for years, I had become very disappointed in some of her decisions on the political front and this one is not (an) exception," wrote Mary from Cincinnati.

Celebrity political endorsements, even Winfrey's, don't matter.

Most don't, but this one might. Much has been written about how Winfrey's Midas touch seems to stem from some intangible force. At one taping of a book club episode of her show, I saw firsthand her almost uncanny power to command the attention of every eye and ear in an enormous room. And anecdotal evidence indicates that Winfrey's appearances on the primary campaign trail actually had a noticeable impact. A December rally in South Carolina was moved to a football stadium to accommodate the 29,000 who came to hear Winfrey and Obama, according to the campaign's estimate, and a similar appearance in New Hampshire drew 8,500 people. The Obama campaign said that these appearances yielded 10,000 new volunteers. Earlier this summer, Craig Garthwaite and Timothy Moore, two economists at the University of Maryland who have studied the Winfrey effect, wrote that her endorsement led to approximately 1 million additional votes for Obama in the primaries and caucuses, a conclusion they reached in part by doing a county-by-county analysis of sales of Oprah's Book Club selections and subscriptions to O: The Oprah Magazine.

Winfrey and Obama are a natural match because the contents of her show and of his campaign are so similar.

Well, yes and no. Winfrey's popularity derives from her mastery of a message that's "virtuous" without being ideological. Her show gives viewers plenty of reasons to feel good about themselves, but doesn't often require them to take a stand. Her message is appealing, but not really persuasive, because you have to argue to persuade; you have to be against something to be for something else. We know, thanks to her upbraiding of memoir fabricator James Frey, that she can do this when circumstances force her to, but her comfort level with it isn't high.

So it's not so much that the content of the Obama campaign—hope, optimism, personal responsibility, freedom from fear, etc.—and of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" are different, but rather that they require a different kind of involvement from their participants. Ultimately, the campaign is going to require you to vote for somebody and against somebody else. Winfrey's show really only requires you to live your best life, and to be aware; it doesn't require action against something. Or at least it didn't until now, and that's part of what both Winfrey and her viewers are struggling with. Some accused her of polarizing the Democratic primary race, and comedienne Roseanne Barr went so far as to take to her own celebrity blog to accuse Winfrey of "destabilizing the entire party and fracturing it forever along racial and gender lines."

One factor that has made Winfrey such a successful promoter of products and attitudes in popular culture has been the way she appears to be unassailable and above the fray. Because she's a billionaire, her interest has been seen as being not for sale; she has been seen as somehow pure for having no stake in the products she peddles. Now, because she appears so invested in the ideology that she has suddenly embraced, a murmur of "sellout" has run through her otherwise fairly loyal crowd.

She mostly helps Barack Obama by convincing her fan base to vote for him.

In endorsing Obama, Winfrey has been deploying the same effusive, intimate and superlative style that has come to be her trademark in promoting everything from novels to her so-called Favorite Things, products she praises in an annual segment that usually airs around the holidays. After his speech at the Democratic National Convention, Oprah compared Obama's words to those of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., declaring, "I cried my eyelashes off," and "I think it's the most powerful thing I have ever experienced." Yet there seems to be mounting evidence that while she has definitely gotten people to vote, these people aren't necessarily the ones who watch her show.

According to Nielsen, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" audience consists of 8.6 million viewers daily, 75 percent of whom are women. Of these women, more than 50 percent are over 50, 44 percent earn less than $40,000 annually, and 25 percent have no more than a high school education. Last fall, it was noted that such women fit the profile of Hillary Clinton's supporters more than Obama's. Now, those women seem to fit the Sarah Palin profile. A Washington Post-ABC News poll found that before the Democratic convention, Obama had an 8-point lead among white women voters, but after the Republican National Convention, McCain was up by 12 points among these voters.

Oprah adds to her own success by helping Barack Obama succeed.

Back in 1999, a survey of the most respected 20th-century women put Winfrey second only to Mother Teresa, who, it has been remarked, did not have her own talk show. Fourteen months ago, a USA Today-Gallup poll reported that 74 percent of Americans viewed Winfrey favorably. Last fall, after her Obama endorsement, that same poll found that her favorable rating had dropped to 66 percent. Correlation is not causation, of course, and it's unclear whether this decline is connected to her politics, but it does seem as though she has taken a risk. A drop like that causes political science professor Costas Panagopoulos of Fordham University to conclude that celebrity endorsements can end up costing the endorser more than they benefit the candidate.

Winfrey has undoubtedly motivated many voters to cast their lot with her candidate, filling arenas as she goes. But it's less certain that these voters are her original fans. She seems to have gotten her audience members fired up and ready to go, but not, perhaps, ready to go vote for Obama.

Kathleen Rooney is the author of Reading with Oprah: The Book Club That Changed America.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cloris Leachman, 82, plays the no-nonsense housekeeper Maggie in "The Women."

Working with 'Women' proves a pleasure for Leachman

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Veteran actress Cloris Leachman has a thing about women directors—she doesn't like working with them.

"I categorically like men directors," says the 82-year-old, who won a supporting-actress Oscar for "The Last Picture Show" (1971) and has received eight prime-time Emmy Awards—more than any other actress.

"I wasn't happy with the women I've worked with before," she says with a sigh. "One of them called us her 'little chickens.' That was very irritating and off-putting. She was a very popular director in TV."

But Leachman didn't have any problems being guided by Diane English in "The Women"—the updated remake of the Clare Boothe Luce play and 1939 classic film adaptation—which opens Friday.

English, creator of the long-running CBS series "Murphy Brown," wrote, directed and produced the all-female dramedy that, in addition to Leachman, boasts a stellar cast of women: Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Candice Bergen, Carrie Fisher, Eva Mendes, Jada Pinkett Smith and even Bette Midler in a small role.

Leachman plays the no-nonsense housekeeper Maggie to Ryan's Mary. That strictly business demeanor disguises her deep emotional ties to Mary and her tween daughter. It is a role not in the original play or first movie.

When the happily married Mary learns her husband is having an affair, the turmoil forces members of her close-knit group of female friends to question their own relationships.

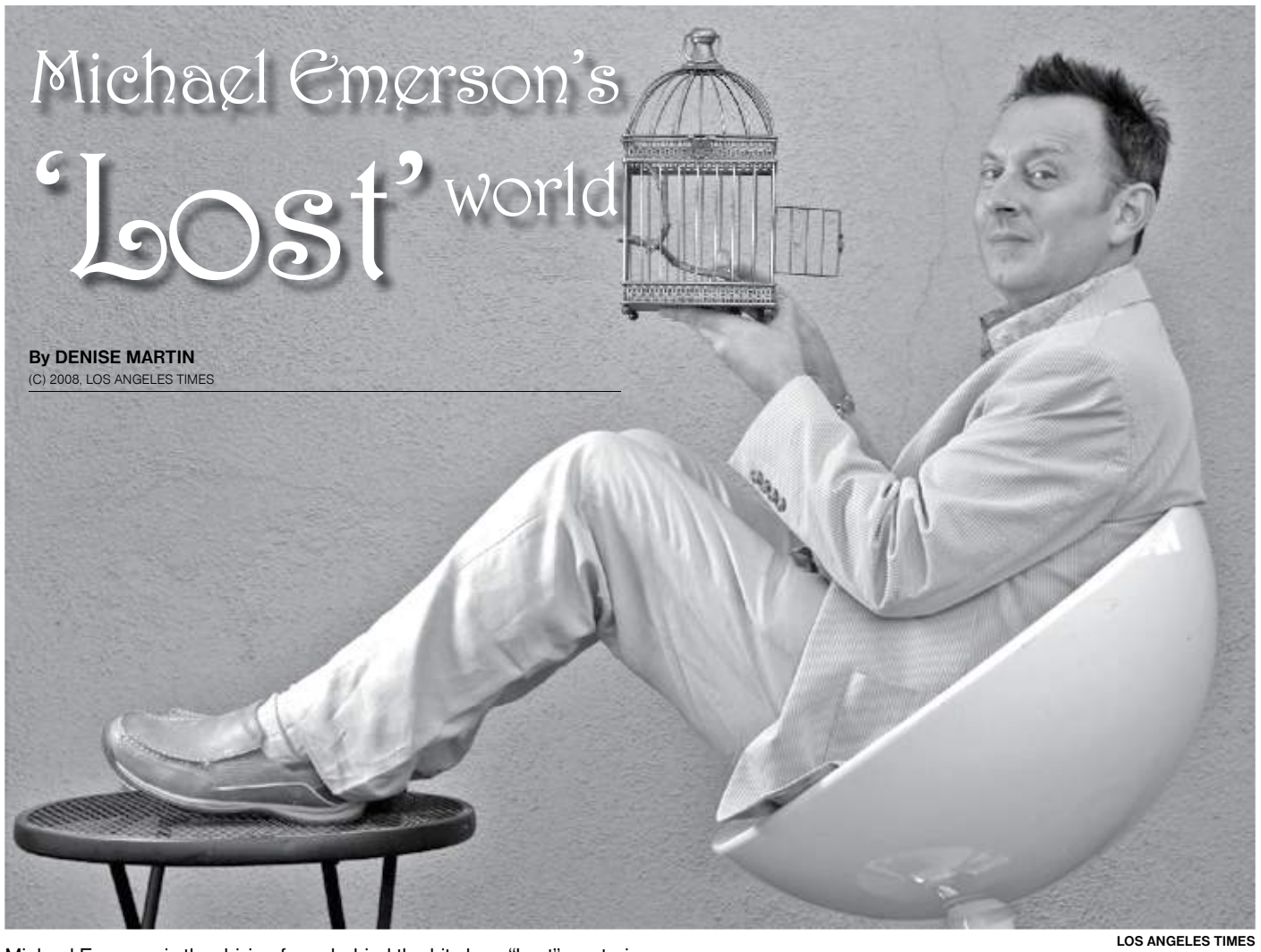
English, who makes her feature directorial debut with "The Women," was "just adorable" to work for, Leachman says. "You would never know we were being directed," says the actress, who admits she hadn't heard of the award-winning television director before this film.

Before production began, Leachman says she struggled to get the right hairstyle to reflect Maggie's personality. She finally opted for a simple, straight bob. "Did you like it?" she asks. "My hair was already cut a certain way, so I had to do something with the cut or wear a wig. I really always like to use my own hair if at all possible. I thought I certainly should be clean and neat, and that's kind of what I did with the hair. (Maggie) was organized and very stable in an atmosphere that was unstable. I had to hold things down...."

Leachman says she was elated to work with such a versatile cast of women. "They were just marvelous and thrilling," she says. "Everyone, I adore."

Michael Emerson's 'Lost' world

By DENISE MARTIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Michael Emerson is the driving force behind the hit show "Lost" mysteries.

HOLLYWOOD—It's difficult to keep track of all the spiraling story lines in "Lost," but this much viewers know about the enigmatic Benjamin Linus: As a young man, he gassed his father to death along with the rest of the Dharma initiative, and as a father himself, taunted a mercenary into shooting his daughter in the head.

Heartless? Definitely. But a psychopath? Michael Emerson doesn't think so.

"I think of Ben as a man whose mission and responsibilities are so grave that he cannot allow himself much humanity," says Emerson of the role that this year earned him a second Emmy nomination for supporting actor. "He's cold because any trace of warmth makes him vulnerable to his enemies, who we know are powerful and formidable. He's one man against an army of monsters."

Emerson isn't rationalizing, but carving out a no-nonsense character philosophy is about the only thing the 54-year-old actor has been able to do to keep his head wrapped around TV's most infuriating and irresistible drama. Having come off a creatively resurgent fourth season, "Lost" is again contending for Emmy's top drama prize after being absent from the category the last two years.

By now, though, Emerson's used to the top-secret, last-minute script arrivals, the never knowing what will happen next. He doesn't know who the "monsters" are, if there are any to begin with, or even what the fate of his character will be when "Lost" returns for Season 5 next January. "Cameras start rolling Monday," he said, relaxed in a tan linen suit on the rooftop patio of his manager's Los Angeles office early last month. "I guarantee that I won't have a script until Saturday."

But the thinking never stops. "I don't know how Ben sleeps," he said. "Very lightly, I think."

These kinds of insights are what "Lost" executive producers Carlton Cuse and Damon Lindeloff say turned Emerson from a three-episode player to full-time regular. They called on him to play the castaways' mighty adversary, having seen his 2001 Emmy-winning guest turn as a creepy serial killer on "The Practice," and kept him after he delivered the table-turning revelation that he was one of the Others in the middle of Season 2.

"It was when he said, 'Got any milk?' after that reveal. We both knew he was a keeper. There's something so incredibly unsettling about his eyes," Lindeloff said. "We used to be really specific in our scripts, but now we just write for Ben to look at so-and-so with 'those eyes.' "

"Michael always surprises us with what he gives us. He makes interesting choices that, as a writer, are so inspiring," Cuse added. "We're like kids at Christmas waiting to see his dailies."

It's been a long road to series TV for Emerson, a Toledo, Ohio, native who studied theater in college but spent the next decade as an illustrator, a family trade. He returned to acting with a vengeance in his mid-30s, working his way from community theater to the Broadway stage, where he appeared in revivals of "The Iceman Cometh" and "Hedda Gabler."

"Theater is my first love. I don't know how I ended up in television, to tell you the truth," he said. Playing Ben, he said, kept it interesting. Unlike some viewers, who ratings indicate seemed to hit a roadblock between Seasons 2 and 3, Emerson never lost faith in the writers.

"People wanted the whole book to be like the first chapter. But the agenda of our writers is much greater," he said, adding that the announcement of a May 2010 end date for the show was "like a great throwing down of the gauntlet."

"You felt the change this season. The urgency, the momentum. Things got darker, more violent, more compressed. The range of the storytelling here is unmatched right now."

And it would make winning an Emmy that much sweeter. "It would feel good," Emerson said. "It would be the only thing that could top getting to move an entire island by yourself."

Michael Kelly revels in working for Clint Eastwood

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Actor Michael Kelly admits he's been spoiled by working for Clint Eastwood on the Oscar-winning director's latest film, "Changeling."

"It makes going back to work on any other job really difficult—and I mean that," Kelly said. "I am doing J.J. Abrams' new show, 'Fringe,' and we've had 14-hour days. Oh, God, what I wouldn't give (to hear) Clint say after one take, 'That's great. We're moving on.' "

"Changeling," which opens Oct. 24 (in limited release, Oct. 31 nationwide) and received warm notices at the Cannes Film Festival, is set in 1928 Los Angeles and is based upon the Wineville Chicken Murders. Angelina Jolie plays a single mother of a young boy who is kidnapped. Several months after his disappearance, the police department returns her son, but she doesn't believe the boy is her child. Kelly plays Det. Lester Ybarra, the only police officer on the case who believes Jolie's character.

"It's a very corrupt LAPD at the time," he says. "I am the guy who goes against the force."

Kelly was in Africa making the HBO miniseries "Generation Kill" when he learned Eastwood had liked his taped audition and wanted him for the role. But it wouldn't be a firm offer until he cleared his schedule on "Generation Kill."

Luckily for him, the producers and HBO agreed to work out something to free him up and let him rack up the frequent flier miles. "I went back and forth (from Africa to L.A.) a few times," Kelly says.

So what was it like working with Eastwood? Did Kelly play it cool? Kelly confesses he probably had the "biggest, silliest grin" when he met Eastwood on the first day of shooting. "I said, 'What do you want me to call you?' He said, 'You can call me Clint ... or you can call me Boss. Everybody pretty much calls me Boss.' "

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of our beloved

†EFRAIN DAMIAN ATALIG PALACIOS

We, the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our dearly beloved EFRAIN DAMIAN ATALIG PALACIOS.

Rosaries are being said at San Jose Church in Tinian at 7:00 pm starting September 12 - 19, 2008. On the Final Day, September 20, 2008, Rosary will be said at 12:00 noon at their residence in Marpo Heights, Tinian and Mass will be offered at 6:00pm at San Jose Church in Tinian.
Dinner will be served at their residence after the Mass.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

From: Norman, Sue, Sylvestre, Amanda, and Sheila Palacios

Fellow critic hits Ebert during film festival

CHICAGO (AP)—Film critic Roger Ebert on Thursday confirmed that a fellow critic yelled at him and whacked him on the knee with a program during a movie screening at the Toronto Film Festival last weekend, but said the incident was "blown out of proportion."

"It has been blown out of proportion. It is of little interest," Ebert said in a column posted Thursday on the Web site of the Chicago Sun-Times, where he has been a critic since 1967.

Ebert, who has battled cancer in recent years and was left unable to speak, did not name the other critic involved in the incident. But he said an account published in the New York Daily News that named the other man as rival New York Post movie critic Lou Lumenick was "truthful."

Lumenick did not return an e-mail from The Associated Press after business hours on Thursday.

Saturday's incident began, Ebert said, when he could not see subtitles for the film "Slumlord Millionaire" because the man sitting in front of him was leaning into the aisle.

"In my medical condition I cannot speak, I tapped him lightly on the shoulder, and gestured him to move over a little. He said, 'Don't touch me!' and remained in position. I tapped him lightly again. 'I said - don't touch me!' He leaned further into the aisle, as if making a point of it. I tapped him a third time, and he jumped up and whacked me on the knee with whatever it was," Ebert said.

Ebert wrote that he tapped the man a fourth time, "just to show I wasn't intimidated." The man was later moved to another seat.

"This whole matter was embarrassing, because it drew attention to me and invited pity, which makes me cringe," said Ebert, former host of the syndicated show "At the Movies with Ebert & Roeper."

While Ebert said he thought the man was wrong for blocking his sight line, the Pulitzer Prize winner said he felt sorry for him.

"He had no idea who was behind him when he smacked me," Ebert wrote. "Now it looked like he was picking on poor me. I have had my problems, but I promise you I am plenty hearty enough to withstand a smack, and quite happy, after the smack, to tap him again."

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Disaster Movie

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:15	

Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
One fateful night, a group of ridiculously attractive twenty-somethings try to make their way to safety while every known natural disaster and catastrophic event—asteroids, twisters, earthquakes, the works—hits the city and their path as they try to solve a series of mysteries to end the rampant destruction.

★ ★ ★

Righteous Kill

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Action, Drama • Rated R

Synopsis
A serial murderer walks the streets of Manhattan, targeting violent felons who have fallen through the cracks of the judicial system. All the victims are suspected criminals whose bodies are found accompanied by a four line poem justifying the killing. The killer's mission is to do what the cops can't do on their own—take the bad guys off the streets for good. When a notorious pimp becomes one of the killer's victims, highly decorated detectives Turk and Rooster are called in to investigate. This case could easily be the biggest one in their 30 years on the force.

Tyler Perry's Family That Preys

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Alfre Woodard, Sanaa Lathan
Drama, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Wealthy socialite Charlotte Cartwright and her dear friend Alice Pratt, a working class woman of high ideals, have enjoyed a lasting friendship throughout many years. Suddenly, their lives become mired in turmoil as their adult children's extramarital affairs, unethical business practices and a dark paternity secret threaten to derail family fortunes and unravel the lives of all involved. Alice's self-centered newlywed daughter Andrea is betraying her trusting husband Chris by engaging in a torrid affair with her boss and mother's best friend's son William.

Bangkok Dangerous

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:50
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R

Babylon A.D.

Friday		4:00	7:10	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Traitor

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

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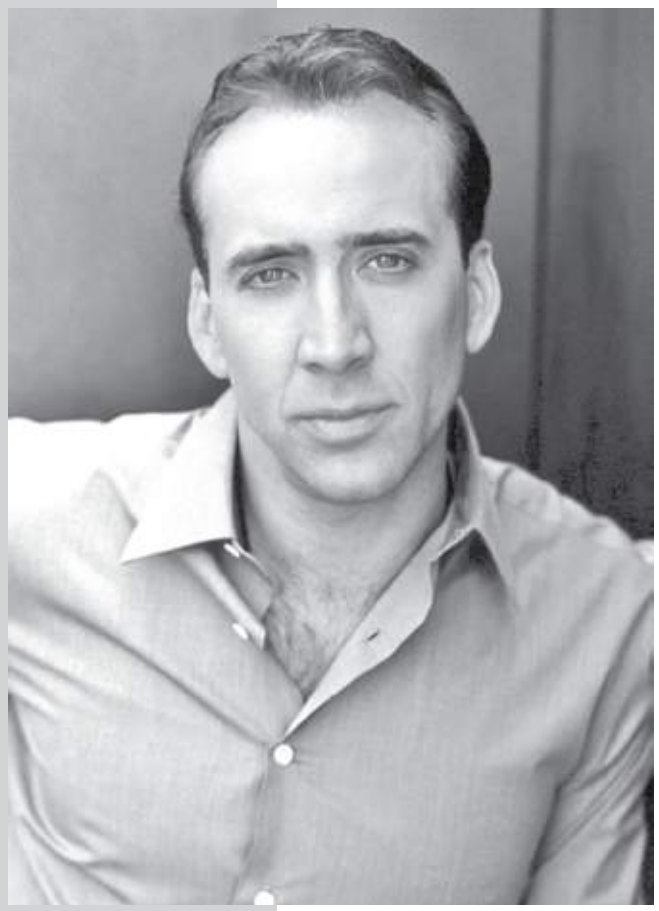
Jill Jackson's HOLLYWOOD

By JILL JACKSON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Nicolas Cage's next will be "Kick Ass," a screen adaptation of Mark Miller's violent comic book about a high-school dweeb, played by Aaron Johnson, who wants to become a superhero even though he has no coordination or athletic ability. Things change when he runs into really bad guys with big weapons. Lindsay Fonseca plays the object of his affection who believes he is gay. Cage is a former cop who wants to bring down a drug lord. Sounds kind of complicated to me, but we'll wait and see. The film shoots in Toronto and London. ... Nic and his wife have been living in New Orleans in their French Quarter mansion, fighting all the rough weather. AND he has always been a big financial donor to the welfare of "The Big Easy," which hasn't had it so "easy" lately.

New book out titled "I'll Have What She's Having" by Daniel M. Kimmel, published by Ivan R. Dee. What a fun read. It tells about all the goings on behind the scenes of the great romantic comedies.

No book ever made more of an impression on me than Dalton Trumbo's "Johnny Got His Gun." Hard to take, but riveting. Now, many years later, it has been made into a movie and is showing in limited cities. Portions of the proceeds will go to the Fallen Patriot Fund. And just in case you don't know the plot, it's about a World War I soldier with injuries that leave him trapped in his own body.... George Clooney is mulling "Up in the Air" as his next outing. Here's the plot of the pic—see if you get it: Clooney plays "an unapologetic corporate downsizer who is consumed by collecting air miles." That's all I know about it. Until he goes into action on the "whatever," Gorgeous George is promoting his most recent release, "Burn After Reading." As for his private life. It's just that—private.



Nicolas Cage

How about these names for writing and pronouncing? In the old days, they would have been changed faster than you can blink to something easy to spell and pronounce. There's Megalyn Echikunwoke, who recently joined the cast of "CSI: Miami"; Juliette Goglia, who is set for a comedy pilot; and Jared Kusnitz and G. Hannelius, who have been added to the cast of "Surviving Suburbia." And that's enough for now!

Tinseltown still talking about the "bunny" premiere. By that I mean the turnout in Westwood Village, a suburb of L.A. where many "preems" are held. This one was deluged with a bunch of "bunnies" along with Hugh Hefner from the Playboy Mansion. The carpet was pink instead of red, and all the bunnies were in bunny suits. The picture is "The House Bunny." And I forgot to mention everyone was given a pair of paper bunny ears, which they immediately wrapped round their heads. If bunnies could bark, I would write "arf" or "woof" or whatever, but as far as I know, bunnies (the four-legged hopping kind) don't make any mouthings. So we'll just hop off to another subject.

■ ■ ■

BITS 'N' PIECES: Come November, Clint Eastwood will be honored by The Thalians, a Cedars-Sinai Hospital support group for mental health, for his lifetime achievements. It will be gala gala at the Beverly Hilton hotel. ... Natalie Portman traveled to Venice for its film festival and a showing of her latest outing, "Birdwatchers." ... And how about these names (they are driving me crazy): Diane Kruger has replaced Nastassja Kinski in Quentin Tarantino's "Inglorious Bastards." She will play the role of Bridget Von Hammersmark. German Til Schweiger is also in the cast. And that's enough of that!

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. T.I. No. 1 "Whatever You Like" (Grand Hustle)
2. Rihanna No. 2 "Disturbia" (SRP/Def Jam)
3. Pink No. 9 "So What" (LaFace)
4. Chris Brown No. 3 "Forever" (Jive)
5. M.I.A. No. 6 "Paper Planes" (XL)
6. Kardinal Offishall feat. Akon No. 5 "Dangerous" (KonLive/Geffen)
7. Coldplay No. 7 "Viva La Vida" (Capitol)
8. Ne-Yo No. 8 "Closer" (Def Jam)
9. Jason Mraz NO. 24 "I'm Yours" (Atlantic)
10. Katy Perry No. 4 "I Kissed a Girl" (Capitol)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Slipknot new entry "All Hope Is Gone" (Roadrunner)
2. The Game new entry "LAX" (Geffen)

Kid Rock

3. Kid Rock No. 2 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
4. Jonas Brothers No. 1 "A Little Bit Longer" (Hollywood)
5. Soundtrack No. 4 "Mamma Mia!" (Decca)
6. Lil Wayne No. 7 "Tha Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
7. Various Artists new entry "NOW That's What I Call Country" (Capitol/Sony BMG/Universal)
8. Sugarland No. 8 "Love On the Inside: Deluxe Fan Edition" (Mercury Nashville)
9. Solange new entry "Sol-Angel & The Hadley St. Dreams" (Music World/Geffen)
10. Coldplay No. 11 "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" (Capitol)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Jimmy Wayne No. 4 "Do You Believe Me Now" (Valory)
2. Brad Paisley No. 3 "Waitin' On a Woman" (Arista Nashville)
3. Keith Urban No. 1 "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Capitol Nashville)
4. Keith Anderson No. 2 "I Still Miss You" (Columbia)
5. Darius Rucker No. 7 "Don't Think I Don't Think About It" (Capitol Nashville)
6. Kenny Chesney No. 6 "Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven" (Blue Chair)
7. Kid Rock No. 10 "All Summer Long" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
8. George Strait No. 8 "Troubadour" (MCA Nashville)
9. Toby Keith No. 9 "She Never Cried in Front of Me" (Show Dog Nashville)
10. The Lost Trailers No. 11 "Holler Back" (BNA)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Bangkok Dangerous (R) Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
2. Tropic Thunder (R) Ben Stiller, Robert Downey, Jr.
3. The House Bunny (PG-13) Anna Faris, Colin Hanks
4. The Dark Knight (PG-13) Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
5. Traitor (PG-13) Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
6. Babylon A.D. (PG-13) Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
7. Death Race (R) Jason Statham, Joan Allen
8. Disaster Movie (PG-13) Matt Lanter, Vanessa Minnillo
9. Mamma Mia! (PG-13) Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgard
10. Pineapple Express (R) Seth Rogen, James Franco

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. Street Kings (R) Keanu Reeves (Fox)
2. Prom Night (PG-13) Brittany Snow (Sony Pictures)
3. 21 (PG-13) Jim Sturgess (Sony Pictures)
4. Smart People (R) Dennis Quaid (Disney/Miramax)
5. The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior (PG-13) Michael Copon (Universal)
6. Nim's Island (PG) Abigail Breslin (Fox)
7. Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day (PG-13) Amy Adams (Universal)
8. Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay (R) John Cho (New Line)
9. The Art of War II: Betrayal (R) Wesley Snipes (Sony Pictures)
10. The Bank Job (R) Jason Statham (Lionsgate)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Camp Rock (NR) (Walt Disney)
2. Street Kings (R) (20th Century Fox)
3. Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert (G) (Walt Disney)
4. The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior (PG-13) (Universal)
5. Dexter: The Second Season (NR) (CBS Video)
6. Prom Night (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
7. House M.D.: Season Four (NR) (Universal)
8. Nim's Island (PG) (20th Century Fox)
9. Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles: The Complete First Season (NR) (Warner Bros.)
10. Gossip Girl: The Complete First Season (NR) (Warner Bros.)

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Brad gives money to support gay marriage

Brad Pitt announced Wednesday that he was donating $100,000 to fight California's Proposition 8, a November ballot initiative that would amend the state constitution to say that same-sex couples cannot marry.

"Because no one has the right to deny another their life even though they disagree with it, because everyone has the right to live the life they so desire if it doesn't harm another, and because discrimination has no place in America, my vote will be for equality and against Proposition 8," the actor said in a statement.

Political strategist Chad Griffin, who is helping coordinate efforts in the entertainment industry to defeat the controversial initiative, said he was hopeful that the move would prompt others to get involved. He added that Democratic billionaire Ron Burkle had agreed to host a large fundraiser at his home in October to rally the entertainment industry against Proposition 8, which opponents say will take away important benefits such as health insurance and complicate decision-making related to medical emergencies and other situations in domestic partnerships. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

In this Sept. 5, 2008 file photo, actor Brad Pitt attends a gala screening of "Burn After Reading" during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

AP

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY

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Q: I watched the television special "Stand Up 2 Cancer" and recognized every performer except one. Who was the female singing with Josh Groban?—Jane S., Port Charlotte, Fla.

A: Josh Groban was paired with two-time Grammy Award-nominee Monica Mancini for their rendition on John Lennon's "Imagine." Monica is the daughter of famous film composer Henry Mancini ("The Pink Panther Theme," "Moon River" and "Baby Elephant Walk"). Born in 1952, Monica got her start singing with the Henry Mancini Chorus, and from there has gone on to appear on numerous film scores with the likes of Placido Domingo, Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson. She had a PBS television special called "Monica Mancini: On Record," which became her debut CD, "Monica Mancini." She has since released three more albums.

Monica Mancini

■ ■ ■

Q: In the movie "Death Wish," there was a scene where three guys were mugging an old man in an alley. One of the muggers looked like Denzel Washington. Was it him?—Ellen W., via e-mail

A: The actors who played the muggers are Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs, Eric Laneuville and Damien Leake. However, upon researching this question, I stumbled across some now-famous actors (not Denzel) who did play small roles in this 1974 movie. Christopher Guest ("This Is Spinal Tap" and "Best in Show") played a patrolman; Jeff Goldblum ("The Fly" and "Jurassic Park") played a character named "Freak No. 1"; and Olympia Dukakis ("Steel Magnolias" and "Moonstruck") had an uncredited role as a cop at the precinct.

■ ■ ■

Q: Years ago, I saw Ben Cross ("Chariots of Fire") in a movie about a Nazi death camp commander who went into hiding as a Jew in a concentration camp. He walked out of the camp with the other Jews. It was a wonderful story about his change in life, but I cannot seem to find the name of the movie.—Brenda D., Newfield, N.Y.

A: The film you're thinking of is "Pursuit," a 1989 British miniseries based on the Robert L. Fish novel. It appeared in the U.S. as a made-for-TV movie under the name "A Twist of Fate." In it, Ben played SS Lt. Col. Helmut von Schreader, who conceives an unusual plan to escape the aftermath of the World War II by hiding out in a concentration camp. Thanks to plastic surgery and falsified papers, von Schreader transforms into Ben Grossman, who is liberated from the camps and, years later, becomes a general in the Israeli army.

■ ■ ■

Q: I just watched the wonderful Shirley MacLaine in the Lifetime Television movie "Coco Chanel" and was wondering a few things about her. Is she married, does she have any children and what is next for her?—Olive P., Altoona, Pa.

A: Shirley MacLaine, 74, was married to businessman Steve Parker from 1954-1982, and together they have a daughter, Sachi Parker, 52, who is also an actress. Next up for Shirley is the TV movie "Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning" and the feature film "Poor Things."

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Mom should share in daughter's marriage to longtime partner

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old woman, soon to marry my longtime partner, "Julie," in San Francisco. We have the blessing of her family.

Although Julie and I have always gotten along well with my elderly mom, we have not yet told her that we are a couple because we are not sure she understands and accepts gay relationships.

Our friends feel Mom deserves the benefit of the doubt and should be included in this important event in her daughter's life. If she can't adapt, so be it—but at least she'd know. Besides, my friends say she'll find out anyway, sooner or later, and be hurt and angry to have been excluded. What should we do, Abby? ^

BEWILDERED IN THE BAY AREA

DEAR BEWILDERED: Listen to your friends because they are right. If you and Julie have been partners for a "long time," the chances are great that your mother already knows the score. Give her the good news and the chance to stand up and be counted. You may be pleasantly surprised, and if you're not, at least you'll know where you stand. It's the honest thing to do, and we're decades removed from the era when someone's sexual orientation was a guilty secret.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I just got off the phone with a friend who makes me envious. "Sally" is a nice person with a great attitude. She married an intelligent, confident man who has become successful and has always been crazy about her. She lives in a beautiful home and has never had to work. She has a close and loving family who travels all over the world together, celebrating every occasion.

When she finishes telling me about her wonderful life, she then asks about mine. But, Abby, I just can't bring myself to tell her about my boring job, my unsuccessful husband, my parents who fight constantly and my average children. So I lie and say that everything is "fine," and after I hang up I feel like a miserable failure.

Sally is one of my dearest friends, and I would hate to end the friendship, but every conversation with her makes me feel worse. What should I do?

ENVIOUS OF SALLY

DEAR ENVIOUS: First of all, stop measuring yourself and your life against your friend, who may or may not be telling you EVERYTHING that's going on in her life. The fact that Sally's house is bigger, her husband makes more money than yours does and they travel often does not make her more "successful" than you.

What you need is an attitude adjustment. Grab a piece of paper, sit down and start listing the blessings in your life, starting with your health and that of your family. Your husband is working and so are you. Many people aren't so fortunate.

Your children may not be straight-A students or star athletes, but are they productive? Reasonably well-adjusted? Happy? OK, so your parents fight. If they're still together after battling all these years, could it be the way they communicate?

What I'm trying to help you see is that although your life is different from your friend's, you are successful, too. And the next time Sally asks you about your life, you should level with her and let her really get to know you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Spears tells how Jamie Lynn revealed pregnancy

NEW YORK (AP)—The mother of Britney and Jamie Lynn Spears says Jamie Lynn told her she was pregnant in a note.

Lynne Spears said on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday that Jamie Lynn—16 years old at the time—handed her the note and told her to go into the bedroom and read it.

The note said she was pregnant but "everything was gonna be OK, mom" and that she and boyfriend Casey Aldridge were going to raise the baby.

"I thought it was a joke," Spears said in an interview. "... I kept waiting for the punch line."

Spears said she realized it wasn't a joke because Aldridge, a pipe-layer from Liberty, Miss., wouldn't look at her.

"I was just truly in shock and then I started to cry. And then she started consoling me at that point," said Spears, who writes of Jamie Lynn and her older daughter, Britney, in her new memoir, "Through the Storm."

Lynne Spears said she blames herself for what happened.

"As a mother, don't we always blame ourselves? I mean, we're the first one that's gonna take the blame," she said. "We never get the credit, but we always question ourselves and say, `What did I do? We had this talk just a month ago.' I mean, I had no idea. I took a lot of the blame. I took all the blame."

Jamie Lynn, who starred in the Nickelodeon series "Zoey 101," announced her pregnancy last December. She and Aldridge welcomed daughter Maddie Briann in June. The couple are now engaged.

AP

In this image released by NBC, Lynne Spears, mother of singer Britney Spears and actress Jamie Lynne Spears is shown on the set of NBC's "Today," program on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008, in New York.

Lynne Spears said Britney is now back on track. The 26-year-old pop star recently picked up three awards at the MTV Video Music Awards in a recovery from her sluggish, performance at last year's event. She announced Monday that she'll release her new album, "Circus," on Dec. 2, her 27th birthday.

"She's strong, she's resilient, she's had some big bumps in the road but Britney's fine," she said. "Britney is headed to the top once again."

Screenwriters lauded with Humanitas Prize

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's tie for the "Lars and the Real Girl" and "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" screenwriters.

Both Nancy Oliver and Ronald Harwood took home $10,000 feature film awards at the annual Humanitas Prize. Screenwriters in 10 categories accepted $95,000 in prize money. Since 1974, the Humanitas Prize has awarded more than $2.8 million for film/TV writing.

Harwood

The awards were announced Wednesday by Emmy-winning screenwriter-producer John Wells, the new Humanitas Prize president. Wells previously won a Humanitas Prize for his work on "The West Wing." His other TV credits include "ER," "Third Watch," and "China Beach."

More than 80 screenwriters, directors and producers serve on the judging committee.

The 2008 Humanitas Prize winners:

■ Feature Film: Ronald Harwood, "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly;" Nancy Oliver, "Lars and the Real Girl."

■ 90-Minute Film: Daniel Giat, "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee."

■ 60-Minute Film: Kirk Ellis, "John Adams."

■ 30-Minute TV Show: Dave Tennant, "Scrubs."

■ Children's Animation: Brian Hohlfeld, "My Friends Tigger and Pooh."

■ Children's Live Action: Ann Austen, Douglas Sloan, Max Enscoe and Annie DeYoung, "Johnny Kapahala."

■ Sundance Feature Film: Paris Qualles, "A Raisin in the Sun."

■ Documentary: Stephen Walker, "Young at Heart."

■ David and Lynn Angell Fellowship in Comedy Writing: Nik Blahunka and Marcy Holland, "McKellar Hall."

■ Student Drama Fellowship: Katherine F. Lovejoy, "House."

AP

Actor Denzel Washington, center, greets a group of children from the Boys & Girls Club of America, in front of a billboard of himself as a child in Washington on Wednesday Sept. 17, 2008.

Denzel, Shaq as kids are new faces of Boys Club

WASHINGTON(AP)—Who's that kid?

Denzel Washington, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Martin Sheen, Wesley Clark and Shaquille O'Neal, who attended the Boys & Girls Clubs of America as children, have lent their childhood photos to the organization for a national advertising campaign.

Washington unveiled the "BE GREAT" campaign Wednesday, asking people to volunteer to help at their local clubs.

"What's going on with children doesn't worry me. What's going on with adults worries me. If we are not more committed to these young people ... they will go as far as we take them, so the onus is on us, not on the children," Washington told reporters. "We've created this world for them, we are the ones that fall and we are the ones that can rectify it."

Washington displayed a campaign ad featuring a photo of himself from the second grade. In the headshot, he's clad in a collared shirt, tie and blazer - much like he was dressed at the event.

"A handsome young man that is," he said. "I have to give credit where credit is due, that begins with my mother not only for giving me life and faith and so much support, but also digging up this photo." The Academy Award winner, who is national spokesman for the organization, attended a Boys & Girls Club as a child in New York.

BMI names Williams Jr. a music icon

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Hank Williams Jr. will be honored as an icon at this year's BMI awards.

The honor puts Williams in elite company. Past honorees include Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, James Brown, the Bee Gees, Isaac Hayes and Steve Winwood.

Williams, who was nicknamed "Bocephus" by his legendary father Hank Williams Sr., is known for a long string of hit songs that include "Family Tradition," "Country Boy Can Survive" and "All My Rowdy Friends Have Settled Down."

Six of his albums went platinum, and 20 were certified gold.

Williams, 59, reached an even wider audience with the "Monday Night Football" theme, which he wrote and performed.

Thomas Jane sentenced for DUI in Kern County

SHAFTER, Calif. (AP)—Thomas Jane has pleaded no contest to drunken driving after he was clocked doing 120 mph in a Maserati.

Jane

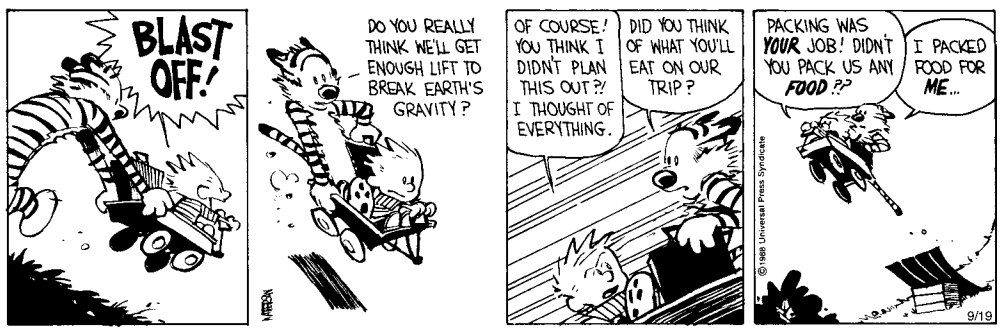
The star of last year's movie "The Mist" and 2004's "The Punisher" pleaded no contest Tuesday to a misdemeanor count of driving under the influence. Jane wasn't in the Shafter courtroom but made the plea through his lawyer.

Jane, who's married to Emmy-winning "Medium" star Patricia Arquette, was sentenced to a year of probation, $1,700 in fines and must take alcohol abuse classes.

Pastimes

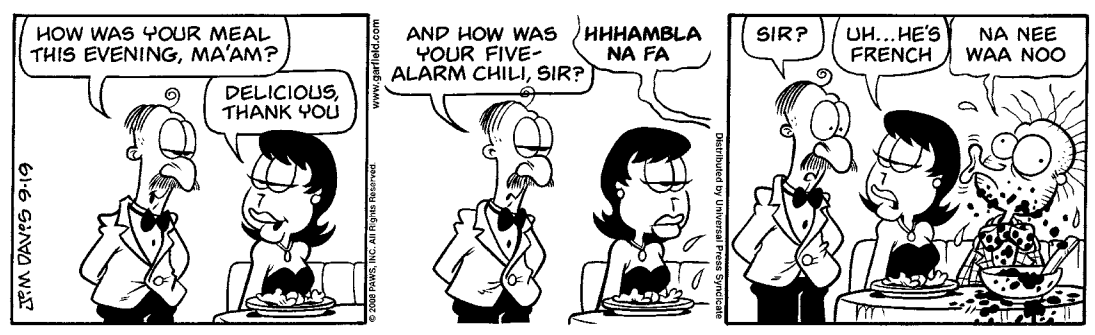
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BLAST OFF!
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL GET ENOUGH LIFT TO BREAK EARTH'S GRAVITY?
OF COURSE! YOU THINK I DIDN'T PLAN THIS OUT?! I THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
DID YOU THINK OF WHAT YOU'LL EAT ON OUR TRIP?
PACKING WAS YOUR JOB! DIDN'T YOU PACK US ANY FOOD?!
I PACKED FOOD FOR ME...
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
9/19

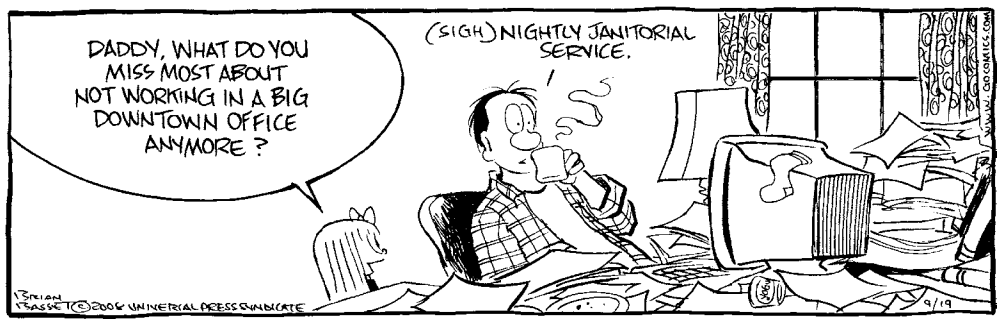
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



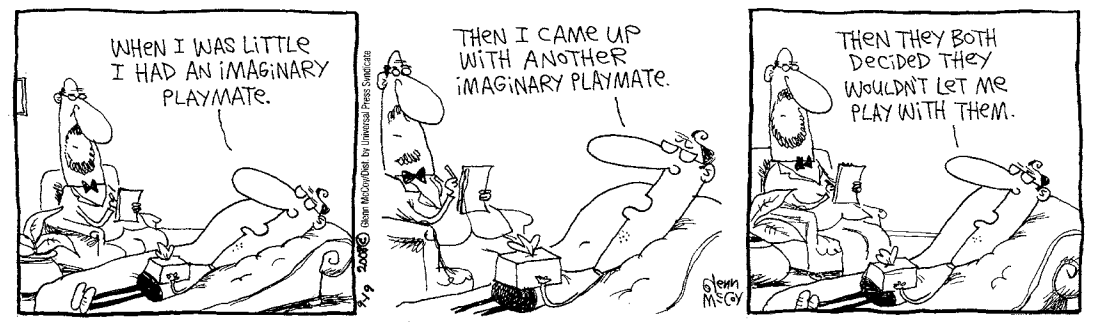
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DADDY, WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT NOT WORKING IN A BIG DOWNTOWN OFFICE ANYMORE?
(SIGH) NIGHTLY JANITORIAL SERVICE.
BRIAN BASSET © 2006 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
9/19

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHEN I WAS LITTLE I HAD AN IMAGINARY PLAYMATE.
THEN I CAME UP WITH ANOTHER IMAGINARY PLAYMATE.
THEN THEY BOTH DECIDED THEY WOULDN'T LET ME PLAY WITH THEM.
Glenn McCoy
9/19 2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

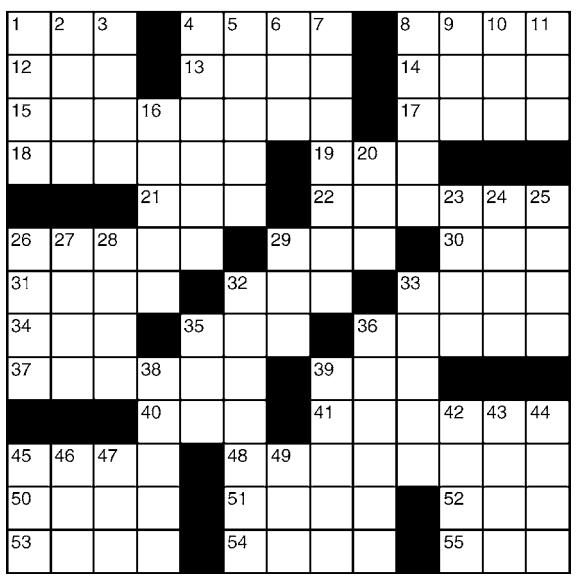
ACROSS
1 Taxi
4 Dismiss flies
8 Ovine remarks
12 Whatever number
13 Nullify
14 Fairy tale monster
15 Midriff bulge
17 The Eternal City
18 Tied after two scores
19 Hot tub
21 Eyelid woe
22 Alluring one
26 Wish granter, maybe
29 Lustrous black
30 Greek mountain
31 Yoked beasts
32 Coquettish
33 Epidermis
34 Chances, for short
35 Journal
36 Insolence
37 Crusted entree
39 Half a Vegas pair
40 "— the ramparts ..."
41 Van Gogh painting
45 Favorable votes
48 Eccentric
50 Angry
51 Beige
52 Brian of rock music
53 Sound of contentment
54 Utters
55 Kreskin's claim

DOWN
1 Mafia bigwig
2 Auth. unknown
3 Info measure
4 Slender and sleek
5 Yuletide plant
6 Lubricate
7 Eventful journey
8 Shoddy merchandise
9 Past
10 Branch
11 Witness
16 Water vessel
20 Favorite one
23 Toll road
24 Garfield's pal
25 Sherman, for one
26 Sticky stuff
27 Fair, for short
28 Egg container?
29 Trot
32 Compels to do
33 Araby VIP
35 Golfer's position
36 Ringlings' show
38 Riddle
39 Blog, basically
42 Graf —
43 Many years
44 Cease
45 Cleo's slayer
46 Thee
47 Mess up
49 Nipper's co.

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	I	T	A	■	L	A	M	B	■	V	I	S
A	V	I	V	■	A	L	A	R	■	A	C	T
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	O	■	L	E	A
E	N	T	R	E	E	■	■	N	E	E	D	Y
■	■	■	S	O	■	V	I	X	E	N	■	■
G	A	V	E	■	M	A	T	■	R	C	M	P
A	G	A	■	■	A	L	E	■	■	I	R	A
S	O	L	O	■	G	U	M	■	P	A	S	T
■	■	K	Y	L	I	E	■	H	A	■	■	■
S	T	Y	L	E	■	■	M	O	R	O	S	E
A	I	R	■	V	A	L	I	D	A	T	E	D
L	E	I	■	E	V	I	L	■	D	I	E	D
E	R	E	■	L	E	E	K	■	E	S	P	Y

Yesterday's answer 9-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Zegers, 24; Alison Sweeney, 32; Jimmy Fallon, 34; Trisha Yearwood, 44

Happy Birthday: Sit back and watch what you've worked so hard to build. It's quality that will keep people coming back for more, so, most of all, learn acceptance and you will be home free. You are crossing a pivotal point in your life. You can set the standard for others and be the leader you know in your heart you can be. Your numbers are 2, 13, 17, 20, 24, 31, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): It's your ability to complete the job that will help you advance today. Someone important is watching you, so be at your best. Opportunities may not be apparent to you but they do exist, so don't let up. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't give in to someone who is trying to get you to take on his or her responsibilities. Changing your mind regarding a business request might very well save you from making a costly mistake. Consult someone with experience. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Focus on fun, serious relationships and how you can turn a little into a lot. A love interest will pop up in the strangest place. Welcome your good fortune and enjoy the moment. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick close to home and to the ones you can trust to be there. Problems while socializing or doing things with children or unfamiliar people will crop up. It will be better to entertain at home. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do what you are asked to do before you decide to take off and socialize. If you fall short of someone's expectations, you will have to answer for your incompetence. There are gains to be made if you are professional and productive. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get away or experience something that interests you. Don't settle for what others insist on—make your own plans and eliminate the troubles that can crop up when you have too many personalities in the mix. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Engage in an activity or group that will motivate and inspire you. There are so many things you are good at doing and it's time you started to expand your own skills and talents. Consider branching out on your own. Success awaits. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone may be trying to keep information from you. Don't make assumptions but be sure to get to the bottom of things. Once you know the truth, there will be many decisions to make. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't go anywhere without having your personal papers in proper order. Mix business with pleasure and you will make some interesting gains. Someone who counts on you may throw a wrench into your plans. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be sidetracked by someone who has nothing concrete to offer. If you are enticed by a little flirting or someone's compliments, you will have much to lose. A proposal will not be presented honestly. Do not take risks. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): As soon as you let someone else influence you, problems will set in. An emotional matter will be blown out of proportion. Take time to fix up your place instead of arguing with the people you live with. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look beyond what's being offered. A learning curve may be in place but, with a little help from people you have worked with in the past, you will overcome any obstacle. Strive for perfection. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a good outlook, practical sense, a creative vision and a way of convincing others to see things your way. You are flexible, factual and free-spirited.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2						9	
		9		2	8			
				1				4
9		3			6		4	
	7		4			2		5
1				4				
			6	9		3		
	8						7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	1	6	8	3	7	5	4
8	4	6	7	5	2	9	1	3
7	3	5	4	1	9	6	2	8
3	5	9	8	2	6	1	4	7
4	6	8	5	7	1	2	3	9
1	2	7	3	9	4	8	6	5
9	8	4	2	6	5	3	7	1
5	7	2	1	3	8	4	9	6
6	1	3	9	4	7	5	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FRENCH CHEESES **Solution: 7 letters**

C	P	C	F	O	V	A	L	A	T	N	E	M	M	E
I	A	R	U	C	R	M	S	D	A	E	R	P	S	E
L	T	M	E	R	O	I	T	N	E	C	S	A	A	C
R	T	A	E	S	D	L	A	U	O	G	M	R	L	R
A	I	R	X	M	E	K	O	O	E	O	A	O	T	U
G	E	G	Q	M	B	R	G	R	R	C	C	G	L	O
D	S	O	U	T	T	E	V	A	L	H	O	A	Q	A
I	E	T	I	F	F	A	R	E	E	L	R	U	E	H
S	L	I	S	O	I	B	T	T	D	U	A	Y	T	C
T	L	N	I	S	L	T	T	E	T	L	T	C	T	U
I	O	L	T	U	E	E	N	A	I	E	Y	H	E	L
N	A	F	E	R	M	E	N	T	I	N	G	E	R	T
C	V	V	A	M	I	X	Y	R	G	I	N	V	O	U
T	(E)	(I)	(R)	(B)	S	C	A	E	E	R	A	R	L	R
N	S	N	A	C	K	V	H	W	H	I	T	E	F	E

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Aroma, Blue, Brie, Camembert, Chaource, Chevre, Clochette, Color, Culture, Curd, Distinct, Emmental, Even, Exquisite, Fermenting, Florette, Garlic, Gervais, Goat, Golden, Lift, Loaves, Margotin, Milk, Mix, Natural, Oval, Patties, Preserved, Quality, Raclette, Rare, Rich, Round, Salt, Scent, Sell, Smells, Snack, Soft, Spreads, Tangy, Variety, Weight, White

Yesterday's Answer: Director

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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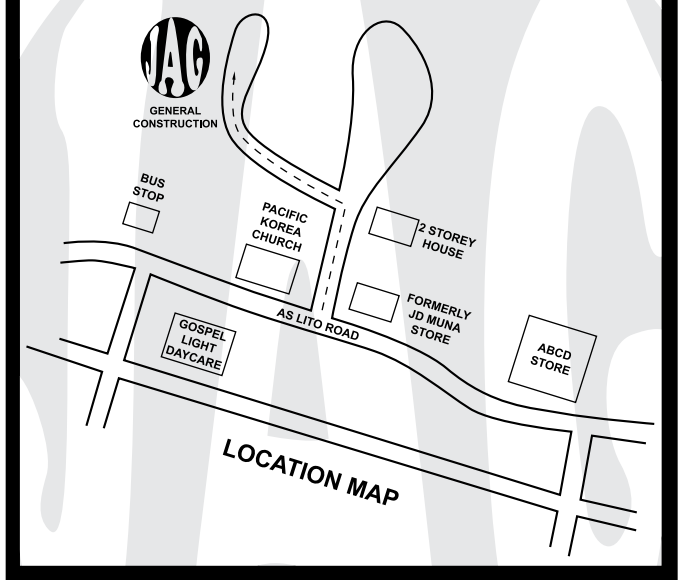


A-Rod passes Ruth with 12th 35 HR-100 RBI season

NEWYORK(AP)—Alex Rodriguez became the first player with 35 homers and 100 RBIs in 12 seasons—one more than Babe Ruth—and the New York Yankees slowed the Chicago White Sox's pursuit of the American League Central title with a 5-1 victory Wednesday.

Johnny Damon hit a two-run homer, Robinson Cano had three hits and Xavier Nady had a tying RBI single in the seventh inning.

Jermaine Dye had an RBI groundout off Phil Hughes, who was making his first start since April 29. That was all the White Sox could muster against Hughes and four relievers, who threw five shutout innings. The White Sox entered the night with a 2 1/2 game lead over Minnesota.

Hughes' return to the mound was cut short after just four innings. The 22-year-old right-hander gave up a run and four hits. Brian Bruney (3-0) came on with a runner on second in the seventh and got three straight outs. Joba Chamberlain worked the eighth before Edwar Ramirez got the final three outs.

AP

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez hits an eighth-inning solo home run in the Yankees' 5-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008.

Rays 10, Red Sox 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Willy Aybar, Gabe Gross and Fernando Perez homered off Tim Wakefield and AL East-leading Tampa Bay beat Boston to move closer to its first playoff berth.

Matt Garza gave up two long home runs to David Ortiz, but the Rays otherwise held the Red Sox in check to extend their division lead over them to two games.

Tampa Bay can clinch at least a wild-card playoff berth by beating Minnesota twice during a four-game series that begins Thursday at Tropicana Field.

Aybar, who was 3-for-5 with three RBIs, hit a two-run homer off Wakefield (9-11) in the first inning. Aybar drove in the last of the six runs charged to the knuckleballer with a third-inning single off Devern Hansack.

Athletics 3, Angels 2

At Oakland, California, the AL West champion Los Angeles Angels made two throwing errors in the ninth inning, the second by closer Francisco Rodriguez that allowed Daric Barton and Jack Hannahan to score in Oakland's win.

Barton singled to start the rally and reached second when fill-in center fielder Gary Matthews Jr. threw wildly back to the infield. Hannahan followed with a four-pitch walk.

Cliff Pennington squared to bunt, then hit a high chopper for an infield single that Rodriguez (2-3) fielded cleanly. But the record-setting reliever made a wild throw past first, and both runners scored easily.

Indians 6, Twins 4

At Cleveland, Cliff Lee was denied his 23rd win and finished with a no-decision against Minnesota—the only AL team to beat him—and Cleveland completed a three-game sweep of the Twins, another gnawing loss for the Central's second-place team.

Jhonny Peralta and Victor Martinez hit RBI doubles in the seventh inning off Matt Guerrier as the Indians prevented the Twins from gaining ground on Chicago.

Lee took a 4-2 lead into the seventh and was poised to improve his record to 23-2—only the second pitcher to own that record in 108 years—when the Twins tied it.

Alexi Casilla reached on third baseman Jamey Carroll's error and Joe Mauer doubled. Casilla scored on Justin Morneau's groundout, and Lee got two strikes on Delmon Young before the outfielder grounded an outside pitch to right to even it at 4-all. Edward Mujica (2-2) finished the seventh for the Indians.

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 7

At Toronto, Travis Snider drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and Toronto rallied to beat Baltimore.

Scott Rolen led off the eighth with a double against Kam Mickolio (0-1) and advanced on Curtis Thigpen's sacrifice. Snider followed with a flyball to left to give Toronto an 8-7 lead.

Alex Rios hit his 15th homer and had three RBIs for the Blue Jays, who finished with 14 hits. Rolen went 3-for-4 with two doubles and a triple, scored twice and drove in a run.

Royals 5, Mariners 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jose Guillen hit a key two-run single after being ill the night before, helping Kansas City down Seattle for its sixth straight win.

Kansas City struggled against Seattle starter Ryan Rowland-Smith, staying close in a tight game on Ryan Shealy's fourth homer in five games. Guillen, a late scratch the night before, came up with the big hit in the seventh, lining a two-run single off Miguel Batista after the Royals had loaded the bases against Roy Corcoran (5-2).

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki was 3-for-3 to reach 200 hits for the eighth consecutive season, matching Willie Keeler's major league record.

The Mariners (57-94) lost their seventh straight, moving a step closer to their first 100-loss season since 1983.

Tigers 17, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, Freddy Garcia pitched five innings to win in his first game since June 2007 and Detroit scored nine runs in the fifth inning to beat Texas and snap a six-game losing streak.

Garcia (1-0) allowed an unearned run and two hits. He signed a minor league contract last month, more than a year after his season ended for Philadelphia because of an injured shoulder.

The 33-year-old righty struck out three, walked one and threw only 59 pitches. The two-time All-Star went 17-9 for the Chicago White Sox in 2006, but was 1-5 with a 5.90 ERA in 11 starts year for the Phillies.

Miguel Cabrera was 4-for-5 and hit a three-run homer—his 34th—and Dusty Ryan also had four hits as the Tigers avoided tying their longest losing streak of the season.

Brewers 6, Cubs 2

At Chicago, the Milwaukee Brewers overcame the loss of injured starter Ben Sheets and, boosted by Prince Fielder's three-run double, beat the Chicago Cubs to end a five-game losing streak.

Sheets left after two innings because of a tender elbow. The Brewers gave interim manager Dale Sveum his first victory and stayed a half-game behind New York in the National League wild-card race.

The Cubs had won five in a row. Their magic number for clinching the NL Central remained at four.

Sheets was replaced by Mark DiFelice (1-0), who pitched two innings for his first major league win.

Fielder lined a bases-loaded double into the right-field corner in the first off Jason Marquis (10-9). Mike Cameron's leadoff single and walks to Ray Durham and Ryan Braun had filled the bases for the Brewers.

Mets 9, Nationals 7

At Washington, Carlos Beltran homered from both sides of the plate, Jose Reyes and Carlos Delgado also went deep, and New York built a big lead then barely held on to beat Washington.

Brandon Knight (1-0), a 32-year-old journeyman back from the Olympics, earned his first major league victory with five solid innings.

The Mets had lost four of their previous five games to fall out of first place in the National League East. They remained a half-game behind the division-leading Philadelphia Phillies, who beat Atlanta.

New York began the day with a half-game lead over Milwaukee for the wild card.

Reyes led off the game by homering off Shairon Martis (0-3), and Delgado also hit a solo shot in the first. Beltran hit a two-run drive in the third, and a solo homer in the eighth.

Phillies 6, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Ryan Howard drove in the first run in Philadelphia's four-run first inning, and rookie J.A. Happ pitched six scoreless innings to help the Phillies down Atlanta to earn their season-high sixth straight win.

Howard, bidding to win his second NL MVP award in three years, has 29 RBIs in his last 21 games and 137 this season to lead the majors.

Happ (1-0) allowed three hits, walked one and struck out two in his fourth career start and first since getting no decision July 9 in Philadelphia's 4-2 win over St. Louis.

Diamondbacks 7, Giants 6

At Phoenix, Brandon Webb pitched seven solid innings and added a key two-run double, helping Arizona edge San Francisico and gain ground in the NL West.

The Diamondbacks have won three straight for the first time since August 19-21 against the Pirates and trimmed the Dodgers' division lead to 3 1/2 games. Los Angeles lost 15-8 at Pittsburgh.

Justin Upton and David Eckstein went deep for Arizona, which has 11 games left.

San Francisco scored three runs in the ninth before Tony Pena earned his third save.

Webb (21-7) allowed three runs—two earned—and eight hits. His double in Arizona's five-run second tied it at 3.

Pirates 15, Dodgers 8

At Pittsburgh, Adam LaRoche hit a grand slam among his two homers and Pittsburgh stalled Los Angeles' late-season surge with an eight-run seventh inning rally.

Ryan Doumit, who drove in four runs, hit a go-ahead, two-run homer as nine consecutive batters reached base in the seventh after reliever Scott Proctor retired the first two batters, only to be lifted. Los Angeles had bounced back to tie it in the top of the inning after trailing 7-4.

Doumit's 14th homer came off rookie left-hander Scott Elbert (0-1), who didn't retire any of the four batters he faced

Marlins 14, Astros 2

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez homered twice before departing with an injured shoulder, Jorge Cantu hit a grand slam and Florida beat slumping Houston.

Hunter Pence homered twice for the Astros, who have lost four straight and fell four games back of NL wild card-leading New York.

Florida has won seven straight to tie its longest winning streak of the season.

Ricky Nolasco (15-7) allowed two runs and five hits over seven innings to win his fourth straight decision.

Reds 3, Cardinals 0

At Cincinnati, Aaron Harang pitched a six-hitter and Cincinnati hit back-to-back homers to send St. Louis to its seventh straight loss.

Andy Phillips and Jay Bruce opened the fourth inning with consecutive home runs and Paul Janish added the first of his career later in the inning to help Harang (5-16) to his first win since Aug. 22.

The Reds have won four straight and seven of their last nine games.

St. Louis starter Todd Wellemeyer (12-8) didn't allow a hit until Phillips led off the fourth inning with a home run to center, his second homer of the season. Bruce followed with another homer to center, his 19th this year. Janish connected two outs later.

Rockies 1, Padres 0

At Denver, Joe Koshansky homered and five Colorado pitchers combined for a five-hitter in a win over San Diego.

Starter Livan Hernandez (2-3), on short notice, and relievers Glendon Rusch, Ryan Speier, Manny Corpas and Brian Fuentes shut down the Padres' offense.

Koshansky, Chris Iannetta and Ian Stewart had two hits each for the Rockies, who won the last two games of the three-game series.

Koshansky accounted for the only run with a two-out drive over the center-field wall off of San Diego starter Josh Greer (2-1) in the fourth inning.

Vikings bench Jackson, turn to Frerotte

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Out with the new, in with the old. With the passing offense sputtering in two losses to open the season, Minnesota coach Brad Childress decided the Vikings can no longer afford to let 25-year-old quarterback Tarvaris Jackson learn on the job.

On Wednesday, Childress turned to 15-year veteran Gus Frerotte to run the offense for the rest of the season.

"I'm just not seeing right now the aggressiveness from Tarvaris that I saw throughout the offseason, training camp, the two preseason games that he played in," Childress said. "And part of it may be experience. I know Gus will give us that. And I know his approach will also lend itself to that."

Jackson completed just 51 percent of his passes this season. He threw a game-ending interception at Green Bay that sealed the Packers victory and was partly responsible for the offense settling for five field goals and scoring no touchdowns in an 18-15 loss to the Colts.

"I know there's many other plays, there's a lot of other people that have to step up," Childress said. "But then when you go back through and look at the tape, and most importantly to be able to sit across from the young man and want to be able to verify what you're feeling—it's kind of like looking in your kids' eyes and saying one (thing) and feeling another."

It's an abrupt and drastic move for a team that entered the season with sky-high expectations after spending $60 million in guaranteed money to position itself as an NFC contender.

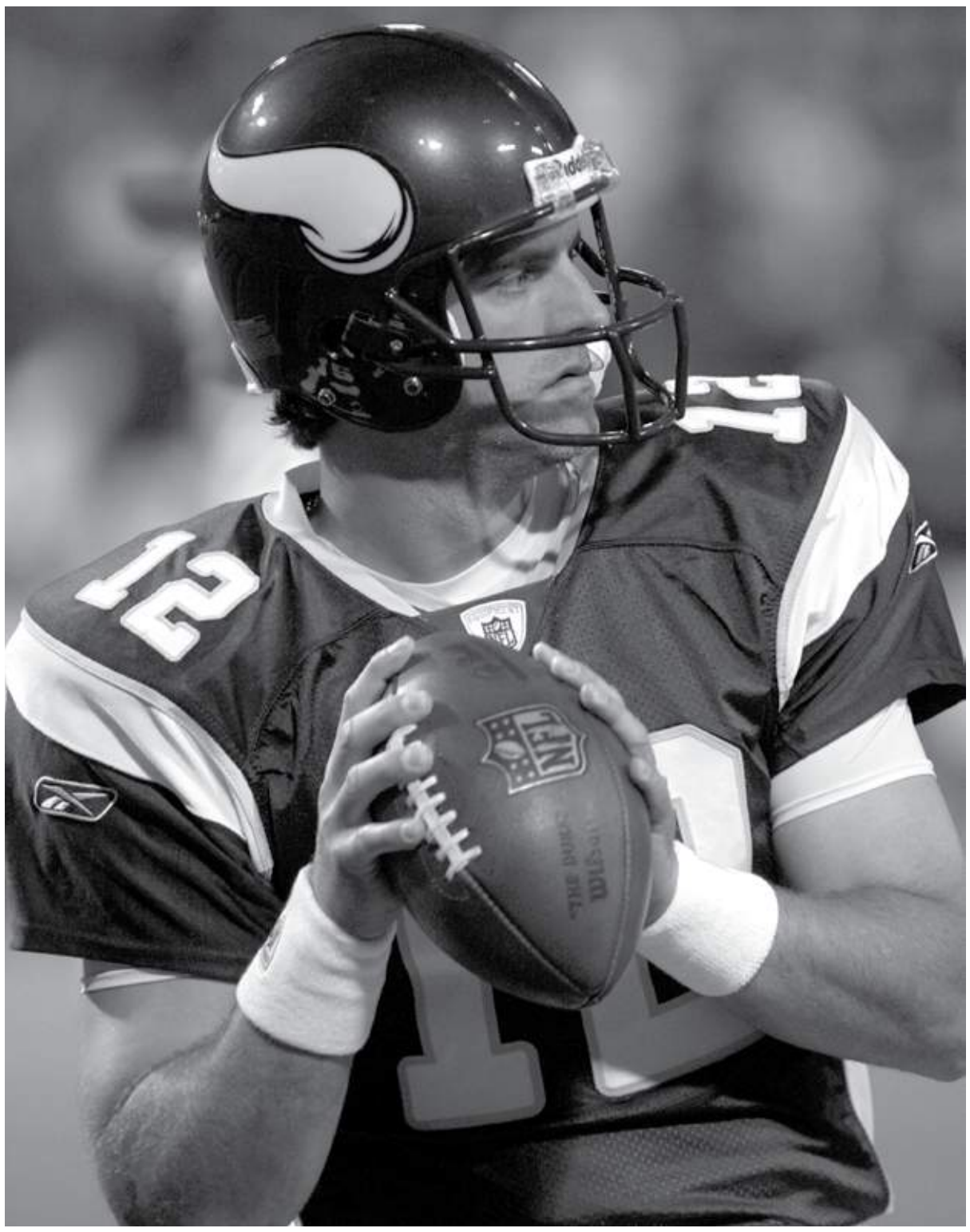
Only two weeks in, the Vikings already are two games behind NFC North-leading Green Bay with games against Carolina, at Tennessee and at New Orleans coming up.

"We're 0-2 right now, and the key thing, probably one of the reasons Coach made the decision, was maybe because we need to get something to get us over the hump to get us a win," the 37-year-old Frerotte said.

Jackson admitted to "inconsistent play to say the least," but also said he was surprised and upset by the move.

"I could easily hold my head low, keep my head down, you know, be a cancer to the team," Jackson said. "I'm still frustrated and mad about the situation, but I'm going to use that as motivation to try to get better and just better myself for the future."

The passing offense has struggled mightily through the first two weeks, not only with Jackson's accuracy, but also with receivers dropping passes and conservative play calling.



AP

In this Aug. 8, 2008 file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Gus Frerotte throws during warm-ups before their pre-season football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Minneapolis.

After the loss to the Colts on Sunday dropped the Vikings to 0-2, Childress said Jackson "is definitely our quarterback this week."

But that stance started to soften on Monday, when he said coaches were "chewing on a bunch of things right now and making sure that he's the best guy for us to go forward."

By Tuesday, the decision was made to give the job to Frerotte.

"I wish I had more time, but it's coach's decision," Jackson said. "I don't want all my work to go to waste. I felt like I've come this far and I've worked so hard to get to where I am now and I'm going to continue to work hard and keep trying to get better and take it one day at a time. Whatever happens, happens."

Childress said he still believes Jackson has a "bright future."

"While I know he doesn't like it, I'd worry about him if he did like it," Childress said. "I know he'll make the most of it."

Frerotte has played with seven teams, including Minnesota twice, in his 15 years in the league.

"I was very surprised," receiver Bobby Wade said. "I didn't anticipate that. Obviously it's the coach's decision and the administration's decision and we have to run with that."

Last season, Frerotte started three games with St. Louis and played in five others, completing 56.3 percent of his passes for 1,014 yards, seven touchdowns and 12 interceptions.

Frerotte showed in training camp this year that his 37-year-old arm still has plenty of juice in it. Wade said the playbook may open up with a veteran in there as opposed to a guy who has 16 total starts.

"I think the coach was keeping it limited for a reason, obviously not to try to put too much on a young player and trying to get a guy more comfortable and more confident," Wade said. "You might see some things change this week with Gus back there."

Colts' Sanders could miss weeks with ankle injury

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tony Dungy doesn't doubt Bob Sanders will be back in the Colts lineup this season. He's just not sure how long Sanders will be out.

The 2007 defensive player of the year could miss up to six weeks after spraining his right ankle last weekend at Minnesota, and team officials are contemplating whether Sanders may need arthroscopic surgery on his knee, too.

"It's kind of similar to (receiver) Roy Hall's injury," Dungy said. "He had his knee scoped, too, so he's going to be out a while longer. If it's going to be two or three weeks, then it makes sense to get it scoped. But (defensive tackle) Keyunta Dawson had the same kind of thing and he told me he was going to practice today, so we're not really sure."

Apparently, those plans changed, too. Dawson did not practice Wednesday.

Team president Bill Polian was more definitive Tuesday night while taping a segment for his Saturday night television show on WISH-TV. Polian said Sanders would miss four to six weeks.

Dungy has been wary of establishing ironclad timetables since he told reporters that tight end Dallas Clark was expected to go on injured reserve after tearing his ACL during the 2006 season. Two days later, the prognosis changed and while Clark missed four games, he played in the season finale and had a prominent role in the Colts' Super Bowl run.

The latest injury continues a strange even-numbered-year hex for Sanders, who played in just six games during his rookie season in 2004 and four games in 2006. In odd-numbered years, Sanders has started 14 and 15 games, respectively.

Dungy wasn't even sure how Sanders was hurt at Minnesota. He left during the fourth quarter and hasn't been available to reporters since then.

"I'm still learning the extent of it myself," Dungy said. "I guess, whether it was the 'dreaded high ankle sprain,' I guess I found that out Monday night."

NFL BRIEFS

Tomlinson sits out practice to rest sore big toe

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Maybe the fantasy geeks should be worried after all. With his toe injury lingering, LaDainian Tomlinson sat out Wednesday's short practice as the winless San Diego Chargers began preparing for their home game against Brett Favre and the New York Jets on Monday night. Tomlinson, who has yet to find his way into the end zone this season, said his jammed right big toe isn't as sore as it has been, but he didn't sound overly confident. "Well, with another day of rest and treatment, it's feeling a little better today, so hopefully, I'm just going to play it by ear this week, see how it feels later in the week," he said. "I'm hoping that it's going to make big progress this week and by Monday night hopefully I'll be as close to 100 percent as possible." Tomlinson was held to 26 yards on 10 carries in a 39-38 loss at Denver on Sunday. In the second quarter, a team trainer was examining Tomlinson's toe on the sideline. "I feel better than last week," Tomlinson said. "If I'm judging by last week, I should be able to play." Tomlinson hurt the toe on the Chargers' last drive of a 26-24 home loss to Carolina on opening day. He said he aggravated it against the AFC West rival Broncos.

Chiefs to start Thigpen at QB against Falcons

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Tyler Thigpen, the first player from Coastal Carolina selected in the NFL draft, will be the first to start at quarterback. The 24-year-old Thigpen will be under center on Sunday for Kansas City when the Chiefs go to Atlanta. It will be exactly 11 months after the struggling young Chiefs (0-2) last won a game. A 23-8 loss to Oakland on Sunday, in which Thigpen came off the bench and finished 14-for-33, was their 11th straight regular-season defeat. "For what we're trying to do, I think he can do a good job of it," coach Herm Edwards said. "He'll be limited in some things but we want to take a look at him." After coming in for Damon Huard against Oakland, Thigpen looked every bit like the inexperienced second-year pro that he is, and sent several passes glancing off the hands of defensive backs. But he appeared to settle down, and eventually hit tight end Tony Gonzalez with a short touchdown pass and converted the 2-point conversion. He also threw an interception and finished 14-for-33 for 151 yards. "He's another young player, a quarterback we want to look at, see where he's at. If he struggles, obviously Damon comes in," Edwards said.

Milloy welcomes teammates' support after arrest

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP)—Lawyer Milloy said Wednesday he was glad to be with his teammates for the Atlanta Falcons' first practice since his DUI arrest early Monday. "I think I need to be here," Milloy said as he talked with reporters for the first time since the arrest in suburban Atlanta, only hours after the Falcons returned from a loss at Tampa Bay. "It's been tough just sitting at home and thinking about everything," Milloy said. "Once I got here and saw my teammates, I think they realized they need to be here for me like I've been here for them." Gwinnett County police charged the 34-year-old Milloy with driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding. Milloy was booked into the jail at 4:35 a.m. Monday and posted a bond of more than $1,600 about five hours later. Attorney Manny Arora said Wednesday he has advised Milloy not to comment on specifics of the arrest. Milloy told officers he was returning from a strip club, according to the police incident report.

Wizards' Gilbert Arenas has 3rd knee operation

WASHINGTON (AP)— Gilbert Arenas had a third operation on his left knee Wednesday morning, putting the Washington Wizards in full spin mode as they face another season of uncertainty concerning their franchise player.

"I don't know if it is a setback," team president Ernie Grunfeld said.

Grunfeld might be the only person who can say that with a straight face. The star player who signed an $111 million contract in July seems almost certain to miss the early part of the regular season at a minimum, dousing the team's hopes of having a healthy campaign after the last two were wrecked by injuries to top players.

"It's just an opportunity for other guys to step up and pick up the slack," said Grunfeld, a sentiment he has uttered often in recent years.

The team said the arthroscopic procedure removed a "moderate amount of debris" from Arenas' knee. Grunfeld offered no timetable for Arenas' return, but Arenas told The Washington Post that he plans to be back on the court in early December, which would rule him out for the first month of the season.

"When we ramped up his rehab he had some discomfort and some swelling," Grunfeld said, "so they thought this was the right time to do it."

The surgery is the third on the knee in 17 months. Arenas missed 69 regular-season games last season and had to shut himself down during the playoffs. Still, Grunfeld expressed no regret about the decision to give Arenas a six-year, $111 million contract after the point guard opted for free agency during the offseason.

"This is not a one or two month proposition for us," Grunfeld said. "Gilbert is 26 years old and we are looking at the big picture and we are expecting to have him in this franchise for a long time and to be an outstanding player for us."

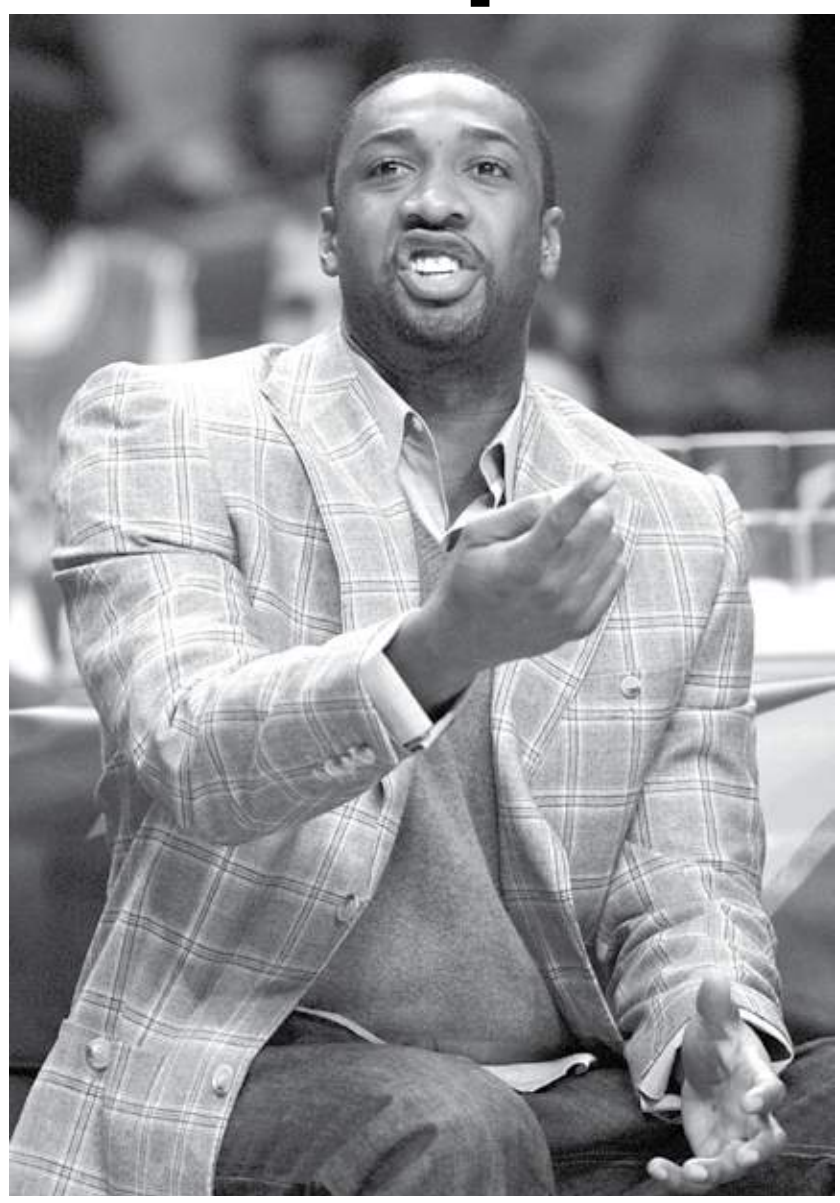
Arenas first hurt his knee in a game against Charlotte in April 2007. He tried to rush back and was playing in summer league games a few months later. The overzealous approach resulted in a second operation in November, causing him to miss most of the season.

Arenas vowed to take a more cautious approach to rehabilitation this summer, but the knee once again did not respond the way he would like.

The doctor who performed the operation Wednesday said debris buildup is common in Arenas' type of injury, and that an MRI showed the knee to be structurally sound.

"This was a proactive procedure that will enhance his rehabilitation process," said Dr. Marc Connell, the Wizards' team physician.

Arenas has proven to be one of the most exciting players in the NBA when healthy, averaging 22.8 points, 5.5 assists and 4.2 rebounds in his seven-season NBA career. The Wizards played relatively well when he was absent last season, with Antonio Daniels at point guard and Caron Butler asserting more control, but the team lost again to the Cleveland Cavaliers in the first round of the playoffs.



AP

In this Feb. 29, 2008, file photo, Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas talks to his teammates during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls in Chicago.

McNamee again asks judge to toss Clemens lawsuit

NEWYORK(AP)— Brian McNamee responded to Roger Clemens by again asking a federal judge to toss out the pitcher's defamation suit or move it to a New York court.

In papers filed late Wednesday night with the U.S. District Court in Houston, McNamee replied to Clemens' submission on Aug. 7, which urged the court to reject McNamee's July motion to dismiss the case.

"From the Sunday evening in early January when Clemens first filed this case until today, his entire focus has been to enervate Brian McNamee, someone he knows to have almost no money, by dragging him into Texas courts where, in Clemens's view, he will have a better shot at preventing Brian from defending himself," McNamee's lawyers wrote.

"This is Clemens's continuing bully tactic to try to `prove' his lies and salvage the career he destroyed by prevaricating in front of the fans who watched him self-destruct on national television."

U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison could decide the motion on papers or schedule oral arguments in the case.

Clemens sued McNamee, his former trainer, for defamation after McNamee told baseball investigator George Mitchell that the seven-time Cy Young Award winner used steroids and human growth hormone. Clemens also claims he was defamed when McNamee repeated his allegations to SI.com.

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DELIVERY

SBA September roll-off set Sept. 21-22

Bowlers can now register for the September roll-off for the Budweiser King & Queen of the Lanes and Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes, the Saipan Bowling Association announced recently.

Games will be held at the Saipan Bowling Center at 3pm on Sunday Sept. 21 and at 6pm on Monday Sept. 22.

Tournament is exclusive for SBA members. All participants have to pay the SBA annual membership fee of $15.00.

Bowlers for the King/Queen of the Lanes have the option to bowl on Sunday or Monday or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid.

For early registration and payment, please see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288 5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com.

Only the higher score will qualify for prizes.

The number of bowlers will be limited to the first 60 entries for each day. Cash prizes will depend on the number of entries.

Women will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Bowlers who are 12 to 19 years old and are not joining in any league or are averaging less than 170 based on all current league games, will only bowl on Sunday to compete for the Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

The entry fee is $10 and the SBA membership fee must also be paid.

Youth bowlers joining the Prince/Princess of the Lanes will pay an annual membership of $10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll-off. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Beermen debut versus tall Qataris

DOHA—San Miguel Beer will have to work double time when it faces the Qatar national team on Thursday as the host country boasts a lineup that has only two players standing below 6-feet.

To make matters worse, Lordy Tugade, Danny Ildefonso and Mick Pennisi did not join the Beermen, who arrived here Tuesday night. Tugade is nursing an injury while Ildefonso and Pennisi have other commitments. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

Fil-Taga September Ace at Laolao west this Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its September Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course in Marpi.

According to tournament director Ted Malaran, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(Fil-Taga)***

PTI

From Page 44

deemed himself by stealing the ball from Mendoza and making a layup to cut PTI's lead to five, 84-89, with 49 seconds left in the game.

NMC had an opportunity to move closer after a PTI backcourt violation, but Wallace, who was sprinting to their frontcourt, passed the ball to the wrong guy with Mendoza on the receiving end.

NMC fouled Mendoza to stop the clock and gave up three more fouls in the succeeding plays. PTI put the icing on the cake, hitting 5-for-6 from the stripe.

The PTI-NMC game was played in spurts in the first three quarters.

A 11-2 run in the first gave PTI its biggest lead, 24-11. But NMC answered with a 7-0 run to cut the lead to six at the end of the first period.

The first half ended with PTI hanging on to a four-point cushion, 45-41.

PTI was still in control of the game, 57-53, until NMC launched a 12-0 attack to steal the driver's seat, 65-57, with less than three minutes left in the third quarter.

But PTI had a 7-0 windup with Ryan Sanciangco scoring five straight points to give his team a 72-65 lead, entering the payoff period.

The fourth quarter had NMC playing catch-up, but could not complete a come-from-behind win, as the Rufino Aguon-mentored team took too many outside shots and missed easy layups.

The victory was sweet revenge for PTI, which lost this year's pennant to NMC. PTI and NMC finished the regular season with identical 10-1 records, but the latter claimed the pennant after beating the former in the elimination round, 89-82.

Now, NMC has to win against the victor of Department of Corrections-Autonomous game to earn a rematch with PTI.

PTI's backcourt tandem, which was composed of Sanciangco and Elmer Esdrelon outscored the NMC pair of Joe Villacrusis and Jose Tumaquip, 37-19.

The rest of NMC's starters—Wallace, Manibusan, and Gyles Ruluked—outgunned the PTI trio of Fitial, Mendoza, and Bruce Berline, 56-49. But Wallace carried most of the load in NMC's scoring, making 45 markers, as Ruluked and Manibusan were held to six and five markers, respectively. Fitial had 22 points, Mendoza chipped in 18, and Berline nearly scored in double figures with nine.

In the first game, Corrections kept its finals bid alive after ousting the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, 81-70.

First Game

DOC 81 – Blas 18, Quitugua 17, Mendez 17, Iguel 12, Mendiola 11, Castro 4.

DCCA 70 – P. Camacho 28, Van Buren 19, Dela Cruz 10, Rangamar 7, Benavent 4, J. Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-20, 36-40, 61-56, 81-70.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

PTI 94 – Fitial 22, Sanciangco 21, Mendoza 18, Esdrelon 16, Berline 9.

NMC 90 – Wallace 45, Tumaquip 12, Villacrusis 7, Diaz 6, Ruluked 6, Manibusan 5.

Scoring by quarters: 24-18, 45-41, 72-65, 94-90.

Referees: Dado Vistal ad Gilbert Espinosa.

GECKOS

From Page 44

Academy last Sept. 11.

The JV Green Geckos will try to keep their momentum going when they face defending champion SDA Knights on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Asked what is still lacking from the team, Peterson said they have to work on their technique as well as to improve their communication inside the playing court.

Losing SCS co-mentor Tamiko Winkfield said her players should work together to be able to catch up. SCS' other coach is Jackie VanDam.

Despite the loss, Winkfield said her players are improving. She said most of her players are first-timers.

SIS-Green's High School Team was still playing against Marianas Baptist Academy as of press time.

Five other games, three in the middle school division and two in high school, were being played in other venues but have no available results.

TSUNAMI

From Page 44

in the Guam Swim Federation Island Invitational on Nov. 21 and 22 at the Hagatna pool.

Only Tsunami Saipan swimmers who have at least two BB times will be qualified to compete in the Invitational.

A double-B time represents a level equal to 75 percebt of the National Reportable Time or T16. BB time shows a swimmer having a correct performance of a particular stroke and has achieved a speed only a limited percentage of athletes can perform.

NRT or T16 represents a level that a swimmer must surpass to submit his name for consideration in the annual Top 16 list. The annual rankings are published in the *Swimming World* magazine and each qualifier receives certification from USA Swimming. Swimmers earning a NRT are in the Top 1 percent of the American Age Group swimmers.

Qualifying times are determined during team time trials and monthly meets.

On Dec. 27 and 28, Tsunami Saipan will be sending swimmers to the Guam International Swim Meet.

The international event is for swimmers who have at least one A time, which represents a level equal to 84 percent of the NRT.

Kimura said Tsunami Saipan is eyeing to send swimmers from the "Athletes Group" or Sensyu in the December tournament in Guam.

Tsunami Saipan's program is divided into five groups, namely beginners, youth and fitness, Ikusei I, Ikusei II, Jyun-Sensyu, and Sensyu.

Beginners are for 8-and-under swimmers, while the youth and fitness group is for those who swim during weekends to remain fit, but not that competitive. Ikusei represents the developmental pool, while Jyun-Sensyu is composed of junior swimmers. Sensyu is the elite group of swimmers.

After the two tournaments in Guam, Tsunami Saipan swimmers will be busy preparing for eight off-island tournaments next year.

On top of the list is the Junior Pan Pacific Championships, which Guam will be hosting from Jan. 8 to 11.

Next up for the Hiro Kimura-coached swimmers is the Short Course Championships, also in Guam. The tournament will be played only in one day on Feb. 21.

In March, Tsunami Saipan swimmers are set to compete in two tournaments in Tokyo, Japan. They will participate in the Tokyo Junior Sprint on March 14 and 15, and in the Junior Olympic event on March 28 and 29.

In May, Tsunami Saipan swimmers will fly to Darwin, Australia for the Arafura Games, which rill run from Mary 17 to 19. Later that month, Tsunami Saipan will compete in the Guam Championships.

Two months after, Tsunami along with other selected CNMI swimmers will represent the Commonwealth in the FINA World Championships. Rome will host the world meet from July 19 to 31.

Tsunami Saipan will conclude the 2008-2009 season with its participation in the Junior Olympic Time Trial in Tokyo on July 26 and 27.

ONLY

From Page 44

year's tournament with Judy Smith.

FIBA Oceania will be sending nomination procedures, timeline, and selection criteria for the tournament to interested federations next month.

Games in the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament will be played at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Local organizer Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands is also looking at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium as a possible venue for the games.

FIBA Oceania is looking forward to an exciting tournament next year, as it will mark the first time in eight years that Australia and New Zealand cagers will show their wares against Pacific Island teams.

"The event host will provide accommodation and meals in Pacific style one day before and one day after the event at no cost to the participating teams. This is a first for the FIBA Oceania Tournament," according to the FIBA Oceania's website.

This will be the second straight time that the CNMI will be competing in a FIBA Oceania-sanctioned tournament, as the Commonwealth is scheduled to participate in the FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam later this month.

The CNMI Junior Nationals will go up against the host, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Palau, and tournament favorite Australia.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	90	60	.600	–
Boston	89	63	.586	2
New York	81	71	.533	10
Toronto	81	71	.533	10
Baltimore	67	83	.447	23

Central Division

Chicago	84	67	.556	–
Minnesota	82	70	.539	2 1/2
Cleveland	75	77	.493	9 1/2
Detroit	71	80	.470	13
Kansas City	68	84	.447	16 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	92	59	.609	–
Texas	75	78	.490	18
Oakland	71	80	.470	21
Seattle	57	94	.377	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	85	67	.559	–
New York	84	67	.556	1/2
Florida	79	72	.523	5 1/2
Atlanta	67	85	.441	18
Washington	58	94	.382	27

Central Division

Chicago	91	59	.607	–
Milwaukee	84	68	.553	8
Houston	80	71	.530	11 1/2
St. Louis	78	73	.517	13 1/2
Cincinnati	70	81	.464	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	64	88	.421	28

West Division

Los Angeles	79	73	.520	–
Arizona	75	76	.497	3 1/2
Colorado	70	83	.458	9 1/2
San Francisco	68	84	.447	11
San Diego	58	95	.379	21 1/2

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 6, Minnesota 4
N.Y. Yankees 5, Chicago White Sox 1
Toronto 8, Baltimore 7
Tampa Bay 10, Boston 3
Detroit 17, Texas 4
Kansas City 5, Seattle 2
Oakland 3, L.A. Angels 2
Colorado 1, San Diego 0
Pittsburgh 15, L.A. Dodgers 8
Florida 14, Houston 2
Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 1
N.Y. Mets 9, Washington 7
Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 0
Milwaukee 6, Chicago Cubs 2
Arizona 7, San Francisco 6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	5	0
San Antonio Sixers	4	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	3	1
G-Stars	3	2
Rollers I	2	1
Kontenders	2	3
Suns	1	3
C.K. Saints	0	4
Rollers II	0	6

Budweiser 8-Ball Standings

Agingan Division

Saipan Cell Hustlers	16	4
PTI Voyagers	14	6
Islander Rent A Car	12	8
Godfathers Rock steady	7	13
USSP Wat-Ever	7	13
Coral Reef Shark Attack	4	16

Obyan Division

D'Pirates Huwa	15	5
Primos Home Boys	14	6
Perfect Spotters	10	10
USSP Fotten Palau	8	12
VFW Warriors	7	13
Coral Reef Barracuda	6	14

Results of Sept. 16 Games

Hustlers def. Shark Attack, 4-0
Islander def. Rock Steady, 3-1
Wat-Ever def. PTI, 4-0
D'Pirates def. Home Boys, 3-1
Perfect Spotters def. VFW Warriors, 3-1
Fotten Palau def. Barracuda, 4-0

Hustlers grab lead as Wat-Ever upsets Voyagers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Cell Hustlers suddenly found themselves on top of the ongoing Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after scoring a 4-0 win against Coral Reef Shark Attack on Tuesday night at Krystal Perfect Spot.

With the victory, the Hustlers are now 16-4 in the Agingan Division. Shark Attack, meanwhile, remained at the cellar with a 4-16 mark.

But the biggest story of the week was the loss of former pacesetter PTI Voyagers to USSP Wat-Ever.

Wat-Ever stunned the Voyagers, 4-0, to improve their record to 7-13, same as Rock Steady.

With the loss, the Voyagers were relegated to second place with a 14-6 record, while benefiting the now league-leading Hustlers.

In another game, the visiting Islander Rent A Car outshone host Godfathers Rock Steady, 3-1, to stay in third place with 12-8.

In the Obyan Division, D'Pirates disposed off the Primos Home Boys, 3-1, to regain the lead with a 16-4 slate.

Home Boys slipped to second with their 14-6 record after the loss.

In the other games, USSP Perfect Spotters scored a 3-1 win over VFW Warriors, while USSP Fotten Palau overwhelmed Coral Reef Barracuda, 4-0.

Krystal Perfect is in third with 10-10, Fotten Palau fourth (8-12), VFW Warriors fifth (7-13) and Coral Reef Barracuda sixth (6-14).

Godfathers' Bill Pangelinan aims for the left corner pocket in their game against the visiting Islander Rent A Car, which won the game, 3-1, last Tuesday Sept. 16.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

G-Stars gain third straight victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The G-Stars continued their brilliance following a 37-25 victory over the Rollers II in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the G-Stars third in a row after a poor 0-2 start in the nine-team league.

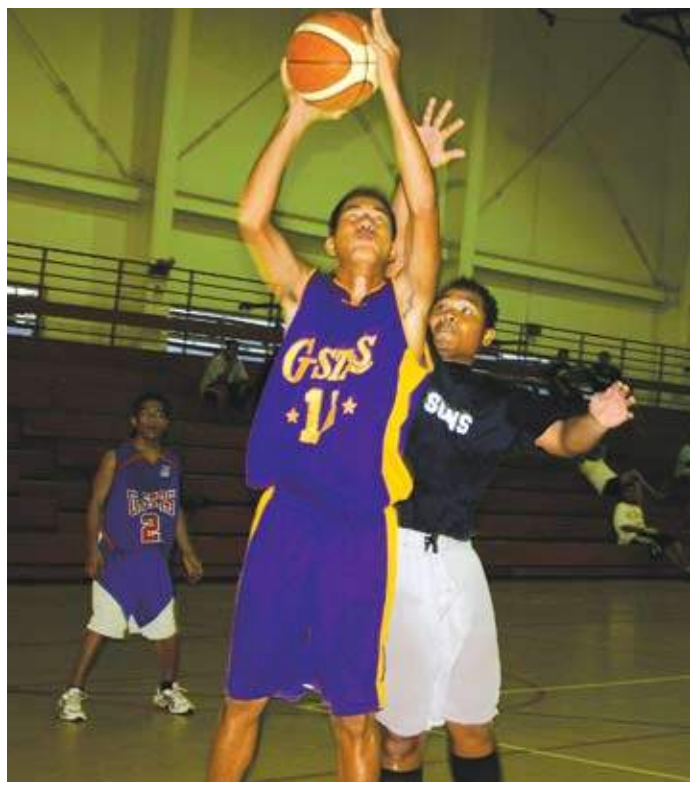
The Rollers II was not as fortunate as the G-Stars, as the former absorbed its sixth loss in as many games.

The Rollers II had an anemic start and with only seven points in the first half, there was no way it could pull off a win against the G-Stars despite picking up the scoring in the second.

The Zachary Babauta-coached squad scored the least points in a half this season, making only three field goals in the first half.

Dan Mateo nailed seven of his nine points in the first quarter to give the G-Stars a 16-7 lead.

The Rollers II more than doubled its first-half output in the second half, drilling 18 markers. But still, the G-Stars outscored the Rollers II in the final 20 minutes of the game, 21-18.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The G-Stars' Clayton Kenty goes for a shot against a Suns defender during their game in the Rotary caging last week. The G-Stars won and are currently on a three-game winning streak beating the Rollers II, 37-25, Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Nate Mateo picked up where his twin brother Dan left off in the second half, firing all his seven markers in that canto, while David Kautz chipped in six to lift the G-Stars to a win in a low-scoring game.

The victory moved the G-Stars from sixth to fourth place behind the CNMI Junior Nationals (3-1) and undefeated teams San Antonio Sixers (4-0), and Southern Sonics (5-0).

The Junior Nationals will go for win No. 4 tonight when they duel the Suns team, who is at the bottom half of the team standings with a 1-3 slate.

The Sonics were looking to extend their winning run to six in a game against the Rollers I last night. The Rollers I has a 2-1 record and was hoping to recover from a loss against the Sixers.

G-Stars 37 – D. Mateo 9, Kautz 8, N. Mateo 7, Sablan 6, Kenty 5, Rangamar 3.

Rollers II 25 – Mabini 7, Brennan 6, Babauta 4, Santos 2, Manglona 2, Rivera.

Scoring by halves: 16-7, 37-25.

Entry fee for Saipan Cell/ PCA softball is reduced

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Palau Community Association reduced by half the original $400 registration fee for the SaipanCell/PCA Slow-pitch Softball Tournament after most teams complained that they could not afford it.

PCA president Rufino Aguon said they have decided to cut the fee to just $200 and also the prize for the champion from $1,000 to $500.

As of yesterday noon, six teams have already confirmed to join the tournament to be held in two weekends, Sept. 20-21 and Sept. 27-28, at the Dandan Ballfield.

"We are still accepting more teams. Hopefully, we would be able to have more than that by Friday," Aguon said.

Brian Adelbai of the Belau Amateur Softball Association said they have cancelled their scheduled games for the ongoing Budweiser BASA slow-pitch softball league to give way to the Saipan Cell/PCA event.

He said BASA games will resume Oct. 5.

Interested teams have until 5pm today to register and submit their roster of players for the Saipan Cell/PCA tournament.

Forms can be obtained at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

For more details, contact Aguon at 234-5498 ext: 2500 or visit him at the NMC Gym.

PCA is targeting 8-12 teams that will play in a double-elimination format. Each team will have a maximum of 15 players.

All players and/or members must sign a waiver form. Failure to sign will result in the player not being eligible to play.

ISF Rules will be used, except there will be no homeruns allowed, as a homerun will be considered an out.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

A runner from Team SaiPal steps on home plate in a game against the Tanapag Falcons in the Belau Softball League recently.

Hyatt Golf Classic tees off tomorrow

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

It will be tee-off time early tomorrow morning, Sept. 20, for the 13th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

Tournament coordinator Yulia Camacho said there are about a hundred players who have already registered.

Camacho expects more to register today and before tee-off time. She added that the average total number of participants each year is between 120 and 140.

She is also anticipating around 30 walk-in players at the venue. Registration time is set at 6:30am while the shotgun start is at 7:30am.

Organized by the Hyatt Regency Saipan, the proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses "to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy."

To share the power of a wish, 15 percent of the tournament entry fees will benefit eligible children of the CNMI for 2006 tax purposes.

The registration fee will be $95 for Club Elan or Club at the Hyatt members and $110 for non-members.

The club at the Hyatt Golf Classic will again be adopting a four-person scramble format and the double Peoria handicap system.

There will be prizes for players who make a hole-in-one as well as fun and exciting games are planned for most holes.

The traditional dinner banquet will be at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside with a fee of $35.

According to Camacho, the Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic raised over $12,000 last year.

The foursome of Alex Tudela, George Fleming, Ed Cho, and Juan Pan Guerrero won last year's event after carding the lowest net score of 68.4.

Hustlers grab lead as Wat-Ever upsets Voyagers

The Saipan Cell Hustlers suddenly found themselves on top of the ongoing Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after scoring a 4-0 win against Coral Reef Shark Attack on Tuesday night at Krystal Perfect Spot.

43

Saipan Tribune
Sports

A-Rod passes Ruth with 12th 35 HR-100 RBI season

Alex Rodriguez became the first player with 35 homers and 100 RBIs in 12 seasons–one more than Babe Ruth–and the New York Yankees slowed the Chicago White Sox's pursuit of the American League Central title.

39

PTI claims first finals ticket

PTI's Ryan Sanciango pulls up for a lean-in jumper against NMC's Lawrence Buniag during their semis game in the PTI caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

If Wednesday night's semifinals game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium between PTI and Northern Marianas College was a finals preview, spectators are up for an exciting title showdown in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League.

PTI and NMC played the semifinals game in the winners' bracket as if it was already a championship game, hustling for the loose ball, challenging every shot, leaping high for rebounds, and trading triples.

To complete the championship-like atmosphere, fans from both sides were busy cheering their team with PTI supporters even bringing a banner bearing the team's name and using a megaphone to voice out their support to the telecommunication firm's squad.

NMC fans had no cheering squad paraphernalia and instead used their bare hands in applauding their team and tapping the bleachers at the gym.

In a deafening game, center Kelvin Fitial silenced the crowd, particularly NMC supporters, hitting back-to-back baskets to lift PTI to a thrilling 94-90 victory.

The victory gave PTI the first finals berth.

Fitial's four straight points came when NMC was threatening to grab the lead with less than four minutes remaining on the clock.

NMC moved within one, 82-83, after Joe Villacrusis split his charities. Earlier, Jerry Diaz muffed an easy layup which could have tied the game.

NMC had several opportunities to force a deadlock or even take the lead, but its shots just could not go through the basket.

Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero missed a triple and Mel Manibusan muffed an undergoal stab.

After a series of NMC misses, PTI got the possession and Fitial barreled his way against two NMC defenders, went for a fade away shot and made the basket before dropping to the floor.

NMC missed anew in the ensuing play, paving the way for a PTI fastbreak play with Fitial on the finishing end, giving PTI an 87-82 lead, with 1:13 left in the game.

Another NMC miss gave possession back to PTI with Fitial running the break and issuing a drop pass to Edsel Mendoza, who nailed an easy layup for PTI's 89-82 lead with less than a minute left on the clock.

In NMC's next offensive play, Mark Wallace muffed a triple, but re-

See PTI on Page 42

Tsunami Saipan swimmers to compete in two Guam meets

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan stalwarts Rezne Wong, right, and Kensuke Kimura smile for the camera during a recent training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be competing in two tournaments in Guam before the end of this year, which will serve as warm-up events for several off-island meets the club is expected to take part in next year.

Tsunami Saipan manager Yuko Kimura said their swimmers will be participating

See TSUNAMI on Page 42

Geckos win back-to-back in junior varsity volleyball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Host Saipan International Green Team defeated the visiting Saipan Community in straight sets, 25-10, 25-13, yesterday in the junior varsity division of the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools volleyball league.

After failing in their first two assignments this season, the Geckos nailed back-to-back wins as they dealt SCS its fourth loss in as many games.

The win, come-backing coach Kim Peterson said, brought up her players' spirits. She said things are just getting better for the team.

The twin victories also raised the level of optimism for the team's chances this season.

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, the Green Geckos prevailed over sister team Blue Geckos that redeemed themselves from defeats against Mt. Carmel last Sept. 9 and Grace Christian

See GECKOS on Page 42

A player from host SIS-Green serves in the second set of their 25-10, 25-13 win against SCS yesterday in the junior varsity division of the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Only five slots open for FIBA Oceania caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With the CNMI given an automatic slot to the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament and powerhouse New Zealand and Australia also getting free tickets to the biennial caging competition, only five berths are left open for 18 other FIBA Oceania member nations.

The Commonwealth will be hosting the Oceania caging from June 20 to 28 next year, thus earning a free entry to the tournament.

The CNMI was awarded the hosting rights for the regional meet in May this year during FIBA Oceania's meeting in Coffs Harbour, Australia.

In an email to various FIBA Oceania members, FIBA Oceania Secretary General Steve Smith asked officials to coordinate their participation in next

See ONLY on Page 42